I do not think myself called upon to endeavour to account for the Nabob's having been prevailed upon to agree by the Treaty which He concluded with Sir Arch? Campbell to pay a Sum into the Company's Treasury which so far exceeded the real resources of his Country; but shall only observe that it was full time that his Delusion so flattering, but in the end so injurious to the Company and to his private Credit, should cease, and I am persuaded that you will feel as I did that exclusive of the Jaghires, not less than a fifth part of the revenues of the Carnatic should under any circumstances whatever be left for the Support of the Nabob's Family

bounds, and at the same time secure as far as might be practicable, the regular payment of that Sum in future, into the Company's Treasury.

A negociation was accordingly opened, and the Nabob and his eldest Son having after a very full and amicable discussion of the general principles and the different articles of the plan that I laid before them, acquiesced in all the material parts of my propositions, I had the satisfaction to conclude an agreement with them, which I trust, will be found to be as well calculated as the Situation of affairs in upon the Coast would admit of, for promoting the Comfort of the Nabob and the quiet of the Carnatic, and for securing as large a portion of his revenues to

For the Support of public establish=
ments and for the discharge of his
private debts, as the real resources of
his Country can afford.

I have now the honor to in=
=close a Copy of the new Treaty, and
also for your further information,
copies of all the Letters and Verbal
Messages that have passed between his
Highness and myself in the course
of the negociation; But it is believed
proper to give Some additional ex=
planation of the reasons on which Several
of my propositions were founded —

It would have been equally
imprudent to have decided upon the
extent of the demand on the Nabob
from his own Statement of his finances
as from the Sanguine opinions of people

influence of a number of interested people of the variety of descriptions with whom He has intercourse, left me no ground to hope that He could be brought to give his free Consent to an arrangement of that nature, and a regard to justice and liberality towards an old ally as well as to our own reputation in India, equally precluded the most distant idea of making use of any other means than those of persuasion which I knew would be ineffectual.

His Highness has frequently in the course of the last three years requested that I would interpose and relieve him from the distresses, which he said, he suffered either from the Consul

Consent of the Government of Fort St George or from the Terms of the Treaty that he had concluded with the late Sir Archd Campbell, and on his any return to this place from the Field, He renewed those applications in a very earnest manner, both by letter and by messages through his eldest Son Condaut ul Omrah —

Information no less than a Sense of Public Duty concurred to induce me to avail myself of the opening presented by the Nabob to take the whole subject under Consideration, and to endeavour to make a new arrangement between the Company and His Highness which should confine the demand upon him for his share of the expence of the Military establishments and for the Expenditure of his private debts within reasonable bounds

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Bounds

that has yet been found, for securing the Country against external enemies and for promoting its General prosperity, I have been hitherto prevented from making propositions to the Navy to that effect more by my distance from the Scene or my other occupations than by the consideration of the obstacles that might occur in the negociation with his Highness, or of the disapprobation that interested and disappointed Men might afterwards express of my Conduct.

The disadvantage and danger arising from the Separation of the internal Government and Management of the revenue of the Country, from the responsibility for its defence is so obvious, that

that if there had appeared to be the least chance of obtaining the Nabobs voluntary acquiescence, I should without hesitation have been ready to propose to him, as the Plan best calculated for promoting his own interest and comfort, and the happiness of the inhabitants of the Carnatic, that He should entrust the Company with the entire management of the Country in addition to the responsibility for its Defence, under an engagement on their part, after allotting certain Sums for public purposes and for the gradual liquidation of his private debts, to pay to him regularly a liberal portion of its revenues for the maintenance of his Family and the Support of his dignity; But the Nabobs own disposition, and the influence

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representations

Copy of Lord Cornwallis's letter to the Honorable Court of Directors.
Dated 9th July 1792. received as enclosure in his letter of the 12 July
entered in Consultation 16 July 1792 Ordered in Council that this Letter
be Lodged in the Office?

o. V°. 40.

Copy.

To the Honorable the Court of
Directors for Affairs of the
Honorable United Company
of Merchants of England trad-
-ing to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

I have long seen with very great
Concern the various defects of the system
of the Government of the Carnatic and
being extremely anxious that some plan
should be introduced and established more
that should be better adapted than any
that

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be used by the party to discover them and if possible to effect their removal as has already been the case in the instance of Lawrence and Connor

In [illegible] I submit the whole subject to the Honble Courts decision, which I am sure will be both candid and just on, and remain with the highest consideration and respect

Honble Sir and Gentlemen, your most obedient and faithful

Humble Servant

Signed Thomas Gisborne

To Thomas Mount

1st October 1790.

The Right Honble Edward Lord Clive

&c &c &c President Governor in Council Fort St George

My Lord

I have the honor to request your Lordships perusal and that you will subsequently be pleased to forward the accompanying Letter and Papers to the Honble the Court of Directors by the present Despatch.

Your Lordship will observe by the various dates that I could not have been much earlier in making this communication to my Honble Masters, and that any Evidence, strong as it seems to be would have been much more ample, had it not pleased Government to discourage all enquiries into the cause of the late Mutiny of the Artillery while under my Command by their Letter under date

to Major General Sydenham, and I appeal to your [illegible] the very unfavorable ground I must necessarily occupy, in being opposed by the opinion of Lieut General Harris an Officer

to

so much known and the opinion of the world so generally and deservedly in his favor, that mankind are apt to draw conclusions from that alone, and are not at the trouble to examine more particularly into circumstances —

I have the honor to be with every sentiments of respect

My dear, your Lordships most obedient and faithful humble servant

St. Thomas's Mount
1st October 1798

Signed Thomas Geels

W. Dodsworth
Comp.d

Men — One stroke is to be drawn in the Barracks and pay on the 1st of the Month and no one punished — Colonel Smith replied not if he could help it — answer being again made that would not do when Mr Charlton catching hold of mine by the Arm — he said there should be no one punished and take my body in pledge, after this the men with one accord went quietly to their Barracks and lodged their Arms — In a short space from after one or more of the 2d Battalion came up and said if the 1st Battalion did not immediately take to their Arms they would be taken — Instances for there was a Man commissioned Officer sent on Horseback to Madras on the greatest Expedition to acquaint General Gells and General Harris of — what had taken place and that General Gells was bringing Troops with him from that place to take them Prisoners — immediately the word was given by some persons to fetch the Guns up from the Lines which was done and Tumbrels of Ammunition was brought with them — Lieutenant Cockesley — picked up a Paper from the ground and gave it to Colonel Smith who went to the Guard Room to read it and when he returned, he said Well Men — as these are your grievances you shall have them redressed in the Morning — All the Men seemed to be composed upon this promise unless I said since Colonel Smith has given his word and honor, that our grievances shall be — redressed let us take the Guns to the lines from whence they came for if in case the natives of the Country see the Guns here tomorrow morning in front of the Barracks they will immediately know some irregularity has been carried on, and now if we take them down, nobody will be the wiser of it but our Officers and ourselves — when one Gun was laid hold of and taken down to the line — some of the men went

and

and fetched it back again when Colonel Smith said, never mind the Guns they will take no harm in being here till morning or the Lascars shall draw them down

Mount 12th September 1795 (Signed)

Witness [illegible]

To the Honble the Chairman and Court of Directors for the Forces and Affairs of the united Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies —

Honble Sir and Gentlemen

I beg leave to submit to the consideration of your Honble Court a Correspondence and other Papers connected therewith which I have unfortunately been engaged in with Lieut General Harris, when acting Governor in Council of Fort St George, in consequence of an unmerited censure passed upon me, founded on the Proceedings and report of an unfair and illegal investigation of my Conduct by a Board of Officers of which Major General Ross was President, and the Deputy and Quarter Master General, Members. —

I will not presume to offer a comment on these Papers, but I submit how hard it is upon me not only to have had my Cause prejudged, but to be refused, what every private Soldier is entitled to from the Articles of War — a Trial by his Peers — and to be obliged in this manner to lay open my defence by recording some of my Evidence — and notwithstanding I have deemed it prudent to withhold their Names until Government are pleased publickly to announce their protection of them, I have little doubt, but that every means will be

and the Men with one voice sung out all agreed which made me tremble with horror— I immediately knew than an irregularity had taken place. I— paused a minute what to do I went to my bott and when there my inclination was to have gone to acquaint Captain Jeaches what had taken place; but the Drum beating to Arms I accoutered myself immediately and out— I run in expectation that some Officers of the Corps had got intimation of it but to my great astonishment when I came in front of the Barracks I only saw three Men and myself made the fourth— when I found my mistake I pulled off my accoutrements and lodged my Arms— in a very few minutes afterwards a great Number of Men came Armed and said the first Man that refused to turn out he should suffer for it; seeing the Men resolute at that junction I immediately fell in, in front of the Barracks with the rest of the Men— No particular person took command after they fell in but the word of Command was passed from Right to left, to face to the right— and March which they accordingly did after they had relieved the Main— Guard— when this carried at the 2. Battalion Barracks the word Halt, was given on the Right and Front every Man ordered his Arms without the word of Command— some Man on the Right went into the 2. Battalion Barracks and said why are you not fell in before— The Answer was we did not expect you so soon, or if we had we should have been fell in— in this interval— Mr. Cookesley came and said in the Name of God Men, what is the matter, tell me your grievances and I will endeavour to get them redressed in the Morning. and if you will only put them down upon a piece of paper— I will give it to General Gail.—

The next Gentleman I saw was Mr. Charleton with a drawn Sword in his hand very parcularly in a state of intoxication for he threatened to run several Men through if they did not shoulder, likewise Lieutenant Hathway came in like Manner with a drawn sword and threatening to Run the Men through if they did not shoulder to the of them beginning on the right, when Mr. Charleton Said what Battalion do you belong to — I — A — same person made answer we belong to the 8th by this time Lieut Hathway came near to me he gave the word shoulder, as he came along — I said to a Man on my right shoulder, after this Man and I — shouldering our Arms and likewise the Man on my left — Mr. Hathway passed us and went to the 2d Man on my left / who being a foreigner — refused to shoulder / on his Refusal Mr. Hathway collared the Man and said if he did not immediately shoulder, he would run / through when 4 or 5 Men forming Round them / Mr. Hathway / — / Man after wards to me struck them with the Butt of his Piece when a Number More of the Men said run him through / meaning Mr. Hathway / In the intermediate time Mr Eckersley meeting with Mr. Lennard asked him to be so kind as to step and acquaint Colonel Smith what had taken place — when on the right of the 1st Battalion the word was given to the 2d are you coming out the answer that was made / after this I fell in the rear — and accoutered / We have no Orders to come out The word was / on the right of the 8th Battalion do face to the left and — — the Colonel Smith came in front of the 8th / Battalion Barracks and said / for what are your grievances we can't do with them now I give you my honor they shall be inquired — 1st Morning — Answer was —

my Battalion and wintest in the 2. Battalion of Artillery — Allan arrived from Annee Yesterday on a sick or pretended sick Certificate and called at my — quarters before he went to Colonel Smith who had sent for him and upon his return from thence informed me that Colonel Smith seemed very desirous of quitting the 1st. Battalion and going into the 2. and was particularly — impressed with Allan that he would come and take his victuals at his house during his stay at the Mount and had behaved very genteel indeed by giving him a Bottle of Wine — He had no indication — Allan told him to quit the Battalion he was in, that he had served in it thirteen years next April and had many friends there, and although the 1st. Battalion were Down at present Allan observed he knew they did not deserve it, and hoped they would soon be up again — On leaving Colonel Smith he desired Allan to think well of what he had said to him — All this Allan came immediately to my Quarters and told me of and a great deal more respecting Colonel Smith on the 15th. of January last which he had an opportunity of particularly noticing from having been Serjeant of the main Guard on that night and when the Mutineers — disarmed it I sent for Allan afterwards desiring he would commit to — writing what he had then just told me — He said that he did not think he could with propriety write down what Colonel Smith said to him about leaving the Battalion — That Colonel Smith had sent for him three several times since that he had excused himself by sending him word he was — much fatigued with the March from Annee but that if I pleased he would put on his Coat and wait on Colonel Smith to hear what he had to say — That he would be glad to oblige me —

on my Wing — I told Allan it was no obligation — all I required of him was
this Forthwith and for the furtherance only of publick Justice

Colonel Smith has signed Allan a passport to —
Madras doubtless with a view to get him from thence and if they can persuade
him to quit the 1st. Battalion go into the 2d. where he is privileged his rank and
turn out as accomplished a Villain as Mr. Conductor Clarke has manifested —
himself to have been he likewise may be Recommended to be made Conductor
of Stores —

I deemed it necessary to intrude upon you so with this foregoing —
detail that you may be upon your guard as to effect Allans removal, the —
Auditor General or some of his friends may commence their attack for this pur-
-pose in so circuitous a manner that you may not be aware of the Address
until you have gone too far to recede — —

I have the honor to be Sir &c.

Mount Fort August 1798 Signed, Thomas Geils

Memorandums I sent for Allan this Morning but he now seems
afraid to come near my Quarters and is gone I believe to the Presidency on —
Colonel Smiths passport — It appears he had been —
days at Pommell (Mr. Nebbes Farm House) he came into
the Cantonments — —

Deposition Captain Isaacks Company 1st. Battalion
of Artillery — Deposes that on the Evening of the 15th January 1798 at 9 o'clock a —
Meeting took place at St. Thomas's Mount where the word Silence and Attention
was given to hear a Chit read — The words I cannot now really recollect the
whole — but it consisted in the stoppages for white Jackets and Straw Hats
and some other things the men conceived as grievances after that this chit was

Read

Permit me my Lord, in the most respectful terms to express my extreme regret, at any hasty act of the Government under which I have had the honor to serve and at a time before I have been taught to look up to respectfully for protection should have a precedence my dismission at a time when there is every appearance of service going on in the Field in which I cannot partake unless Government are pleased to call upon me and which I shall always be ready to attend at a moments warning and I am only prevented making the offer direct in the abrupt manner they have been pleased to preclude any further correspondence In conclusion I request your Lordships peculiar attention to the proceedings of the Board of Officers which I have never seen, but have been advised by the Only Officer that attended them that in no shape warrant the Report whatever it may have been made to Government or subsequent censure passed upon me

I have the honor to be with sentiments of the highest consideration My Lord your Lordships most Obedient and most humble Servant

Signed/ Thomas Geils—

St. Thomas's Mount
26th July 1797

Friday 27th July 1798

Sir

Lieutenant General Harris has directed me to acknowledge the Receipt of your note of Yesterday and to inform you that Lawrence and Connor were released by Government on their own perspiring application giving as a reason for their urging the matter that if it was granted they had hopes they would be received on board the Hydrille —

I am, Sir your most Obedient and humble Servant

Signed/ John Gardiner
Secretary

To Major General Geils—

Lieut

Lieutenant General Harris &c &c &c

Sir

I was Yesterday honored with your reply through your Secretary Lieutenant Colonel Gardiner to my Note of the preceding Day—

In whatever manner Souvenirs and Commissions may have been allowed to go and on whatever Items on board the Ship belle the same to me is equally the same, as it deprives me of the Only Testimony of two material Evidence and may be the same with others which it is in your power alone to prevent The Records of Government will shew hereafter in what manner the subject was introduced there or whether it ever was Regularly introduced at all or not— In every case after my Letter to Government of the 26th of May I am at a loss to account for the injury done me Sir in allowing those two Men to depart— unless Their Evidence or a regular affidavit of their Evidence had been first taken

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most Obedient
humble Servant
Signed Thomas Pitts

St Thomas's Mount
26th July 1798—

Lieutenant General Harris &c &c &c

Sir.

We had a Melancholly Exhibition at the Mount Yesterday in apology for a Review of the 2d Battalion of Artillery by Major General — Fydenham that will require all his address I apprehend to bottle up Orders — and in his Report to Head Quarters to Authorize its being imposed on the publick as meriting the name of Artillery Review— But leaving a ground the party are by no means strong upon, permit me to offer to your consideration and redress Sir that Colonel Smith has been tampering with one of my Evidences — Sergeant Allan of Captain Isaacks Company to induce him to leave

my

Major General Gils on presenting his respects to Lieutenant General Harris takes leave to acquaint him that he understands Laurence and Connor — who Major General Gils states to Government, he would require as Evidences in the trial of Lt. Col. Conductor Clarke and on other Matters regarding himself — have been ordered on Board the Sybelle Frigate now in the Roads, and are going to Bengal which he presumes to be an act of some Gentleman in Office without the Knowledge of General Harris — which it never can be supposed. after such intimation would willingly deprive Major Gils of the benefit of two of his most Material Evidences

Fort St. George 15th July 1798

To Major General Gils

Sir

I am directed to acquaint you that your several Letters of 20th. 23d. 26th. Ultimo and 3d Instant, have been received — the peculiar manner in which you have addressed yourself to the Honble the Governor in general in your last letter above mentioned renders it incumbent upon him and I have according by his direction to inform you that no letter will in future be received from you until the Court of Directors have decided on your Application

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedt. Humble Servant

Fort St. George, 15th July 1798

signed J Webbe Secretary to Government

signed J. Strang Esqr

The Right Honorable Richard Earl Mornington Knight of St Patrick
President Governor General in Council &c &c &c

My Lord — I have the honor of submitting to the consideration of your Lordship in Council a continuation of the correspondence I have unfortunately I would sooner have been engaged in with the Honorable Lieut and General Harris acting Governor in Council and Commander in Chief of Fort St George in defence of my Conduct as an Officer on occasion of the mutiny of the European Artillery which was under my Command previously known or suspected of not — cherished and encouraged by certain Officers and Non Commissioned Officers of the — Corps which first led to the censure passed upon me by Government and deprivation of my Command and ultimately — as I could not on honor submit to the degrading idea of having justly reprimanded for what I was conscious in my own mind I never deserved — to my suspension from the Honorable Companys service until the pleasure of the Court of Directors should be known. —

As the Papers in allusion and which I have now the honor of submitting to your Lordship contain all that I can have to offer and much more than for the honor of the Army should ever have appeared upon Record — I have now only to observe to your Lordship as I before had the honor of declaring to the Honorable Lieutenant General Harris in Council, that I have the clearest Evidence upon oath of Mr Conductor Clarke and Colonel Dowd Smith as stated in the charges in full upon which I am ready to submit privately to your Lordships prosecute upon Record as may be agreeable to you to the first suitable to the purpose of my own Defence in furtherance of public justice which no authority I am conscious can ever be able to stop or obstruct the course of

Pressed

He further declares that on the morning of the 1st February, after the Men were dismissed from Morning Parade they were talking of the Prisoners being sent to Calcutta in the Evening; the Head Sergeant Major Clarke says to "I wish — success to your undertaking my Boys" — could not be, or I would have sent you his written deposition — There is four of my Men at Fort William just now and as soon as they return, I don't doubt but I will be able to send you more Evidence — You will observe what Clarke says in the latter part of his Deposition; I think it amounts to merely a Confirmation of what Sergeant Major Hughes has declared — and he tells me that Mabrosses and of Captain Bells Company and many others can confirm it — and as to the first part of it he says there was upwards of three fourths of the Battalion murmured Colonel Smith —

Signed

On the night of the 15th January Colonel Smith came to the Barracks there was a paper delivered to him and he gave his word and honor that it should be complied with, the Men hearing this, was taking the Guns back to the Park, when Colonel Smith called out "Never mind General Girls will be here presently" — I hearing the present, this I heard

Signed"

(On the night of the 15th January Colonel Smith came in front of the Barracks and after reading a paper that was delivered to him he gave his word and honor that it should be complied with when the Men was going to take back the Guns to the Park — Colonel Smith called out — "Never mind never mind. "General Girls will be here by and by" — on the first appearance of

of Colonel Smith, he said, "I thought this would happen before" — These
words I heard myself, being present at the time.
Signed

My Dear General

Since I wrote to you on the 3 instant, enclosing you the Depositions
of . . and . . the party at . . have been —a—
relieved, that I have only been able to procure You another —a—
Evidence, whose Deposition I now send — The rest of the Men declare
they do not recollect Colonel S. words I suspect however that two or
three of them does know what Colonel S. said and are deterred from
declaring it, either from a fear of incurring the displeasure of
some other cause.

I am endeavouring as much as possible to dispel those fears, and to find
out whether they do or do not know any thing of the matter — If I
succeed I will not fail to forward you any information I may pick
up. — I am, My Dear Sir, Yours very sincerely,
F. 10th July 1798 Signed

On the night of the 15th January 1798 Colonel Sma... came to the 1st
Battalion Barracks and when observing the condition the Men were
in he, Colonel Smith immediately said "O, I thought this would happen
before" and because Colonel Smith gave his word and honor that they should
have their arrears, when the Men appeared satisfied with Colonel Smiths word
and honor: they were taking the Guns back to the Park from whence they
came; when Colonel Smith called out "never Mind" and repeated with saying —
"General Gale will be here by and by —
Signed
Mad of
1st Battalion Artillery

F
6th July 1798

But Honble Sir, I call upon you, not only in your station as Governor in Council but as Commander in Chief and as an Officer to say if such wilful and apparently premeditated neglect that might have been attended with all the dreadful and ora consequences of a Mutiny, had it not fortunately been quelled by me under every disadvantage and even a degree of opposition from certain Officers and Non Commissioned Officers of the Corps and out of which the Conviction of no less than six and the actual execution of four deluded Men — My own Censure and Suspension from the Service has arisen can in justice be overlooked — Or if the charges exhibited by me for such wilful and seemingly premeditated neglect against Mr Conductor Clarke and Colonel David Smith against the Commanding Officer on the spot and quondam Serjeant Major of the Corps — One of whom has undeservedly I will presume to say had the Command of the Mounts conferred on him and the other been rewarded with a Conductorship, for his supposed Meritorious conduct on the 15th and 16th of January last can be allowed to pass unnoticed into oblivion — I declare to you, Honble Sir, in the most respectful terms, that it is my firm belief at this Moment and that it will appear more clearly hereafter in Evidence whenever he may be brought to trial, that that worthless man Clarke with all his Aides and abettors have waded through blood to what they have obtained and have literally loaded the Guns and even the Gallows whose justice may yet overtake some of themselves that hurried the four deluded Men into Eternity and who lust for such cruelty will as apparently premeditated neglect might have been alive at this hour, and in the honorable discharge of their duties to their Sovereign & Country & will not advert to my own

an peculiar situation at this Solemn Moment of appeal to your justice or do the party the injury to suppose, however I may in every honest man must, abhor such proceeding, that they meant to to have gone the absolute length of a Mutiny.— Upon removal and censure of the disgrace and removal of the 1st Battalion of Artillery could have been effected on easier terms But Horrible to see off from an illegal act or from a wilful criminal and may be from premeditated neglect of Duty a Mutiny ensues — I have to your honor in Council I submit to the Commander in Chief of the Army to give a name to this new description of Crime for a Court with all the advantages that may result from it I should be loath to exchange my own Horrible as it has been an unmerited Censure and suspension from the Service

I have the honor to be with every sentiments of respect
Honble Sir, Your most obedient and most humble Servant
St Thomas's Morant 2d July 1794 (Signed) J. Gells

My Dear Sir - I yesterday received your letter of the 17th ultimo None of the Men here can corroborate what Sergeant heard Colonel G. say on the Parade on the Evening of the 15th January In confirmation of the latter charge I enclose you the Depositions of and also declares that after Colonel G promise to the Men Captain — Isaacs Company advanced their drag Ropes to draw the Guns back to the line and that two of the Guns were drawn near to the Clump of Trees, when Colonel G called out "never mind, never mind it is time enough to draw them back tomorrow Morning General Gells will be here by and by"—

under the insidious pretence held out to you of a fear of alarming or agitating the minds of so great a body of men as that of the Coast Artillery or that you would refer the subject to Bengal where the prejudice industriously propagated against me has not yet subsided and where in the chapter of accidents; Some thing favorable might turn up to gratify the views and wishes of the Party -

On the subject of agitating the minds of the non Commissioned and privates of the Artillery - Permit me Honble Sir to offer to your Notice certain observations made by some of the Artillery Men at a time when they were desired to be sworn as approvers on account of the late Mutiny - I drew out of a curious packet from Lieutenant Colonel Saxon to Captain Isaacke at Arnee and contained a Copy of my Letter to your honor in Council of the 23d Instant respecting Clarke when he was about to resign the Conductorship with the reply of Government thereto - From these letters it would seem were sent from your honor in Council to General Sydenham stating among others the following most extraordinary reason for them being forwarded to him and to which I entreat your peculiar attention - That he would be meant had been taken to stir up a discontent in the Corps of Artillery by referring to and bringing up the business of the Mutiny, or words to that effect and which Major General Sydenham would perceive by the Copy of my letter and the answer of Government was a matter they thought unnecessary to review as the subject had been brought to a rational Conclusion by the execution of those unfortunate Men - That the Letters were sent to General Sydenham that he might transmit them to the Officers of Artillery in command and that those Officers might assure their Men

the

the whole business was dropt and thereby quell the anxiety that prevailed among them — This was accompanyed by the Copy of a letter from General Sydenham to Colonel Saxon telling him to make what use of those Letters he pleased by shewing them to the Non Commissioned Officers or words of similar import for I could not procure a Copy of the Letters — I hope your honor in Council will perceive the necessity of Correcting Mr. Secretary Webbe in that part of his Letter as extremely unjust and injurious to me and I trust it is the only part regarding me on your records, that needs such Correction — Wherein he Mr. Secretary Webbe is pleased to say, means had been taken to Disarm discontent in the Corps of Artillery &c certain of the Men smiled at the Caution given them and with an honest indignation said "by God there is hardly "a man in the Corps that would not be glad to see him" meaning Mr. Conductor Clarke "hung" — and as for any fears regarding themselves, they had never thought of it, nor had any man in the Company that they knew of — It might or might not easily ascertained yet I am ready to believe Worthy Sir, the Idea of this letter and Communication originated with Major General Sydenham himself and notwithstanding such an unfounded report of alarm had been suggested to your Honor in Council respecting the Non Commissioned and privates of the Artillery on account of the enquiries making by me for the fair and honest purpose of my own justification — Yet a real claim existed elsewhere and does still exist at this moment which the other was meant only as a Cloak to, and to deprive me of the means of exposing and thereby of justifying myself

R

notice to my Letter of these charges — That it may be intended to
avoid altogether bringing those two Men to Trial, and as it was
reported regarding me, that I would have been Tried by a General Court
Martial myself if any thing like a Crime could have been framed
against me, or that there was not a moral certainty of my
being honorably acquitted in the Event of my being brought before
such a Tribunal, and on that account, and on that account alone,
it was suggested to you Honble Sir, and which you reluctantly
gave in to, to suspend me the Honble Company's Service, until
the pleasure of the Court of Directors should be Known — And
now that there are charges of a determinate and very serious nature
exhibited by me against Mr. Conductor Clarke and Colonel David
Smith, it may be resolved if possible not to bring them forward
not only from a Certainty of the charges being brought home to them
but from a probability that the discoveries those Trials might lead to,
would be tantamount to my own acquittal — Under a full
persuasion of the truth from what I have understood, of what
regards myself, and the probability that hereafter the
intended Mission of Mr. Conductor Clarke and Colonel David
Smith's Trial may also appear to be the fact — I am compelled to appeal
to your honor in Council that there cannot be a doubt or the smallest
shadow of a doubt of the guilt or Evidence of the Guilt of Mr. Conductor
Clarke as accused in the charges against them, nor is there the most distant
imputation in my mind but that he instructed as he says he did, all the Pains to Colonel Smith
or Staff which must fully acquit Mr. Conductor Clarke of the first
charge, nor is there a want of [illegible]

proof

proof, that he and two other distinguished character of the 2d Battalion
Sergeants Gostelow and Barsfield, acted all along under instructions "
which added to the charges exhibited, leave little room to doubt
the issue of Colonel Smith's Trial whenever it may please your Honor
in Council to bring me and them forward and as I before observed
the Trials alone of Mr. Conductor Clarke and Colonel Smith — "
Supposing them to be acquitted, would in all probability throw
such light on my Conduct, during the Mutiny on the 15th and 16th "
January last, and which justice seems urgently to demand of an
Honble Board, as I have been denied a Court Martial myself and every
other mean refused of justifying my Conduct on the occasion, as must
induce Government, if not to withdraw the Censure passed on me —
in Consequence of the Proceedings and Report of the Board of — "
Officers at least to acknowledge it to have been altogether unmerited
and which I am persuaded at this Moment they are now inclined
to believe and that Consequently their Justice if the act itself has not
put it beyond their power would induce them to remove or — "
Recommend to the Supreme Government to remove the — "
suspension — Both as Captain Malcolm told Lieutenant Gellie, at a
time when he wished to persuade Mr. Gellie to withdraw his letter — A
Letter which in my mind did him so much honor both as an Officer
and as a Man — in reply to the Secretary Mr. — extraordinary — "
Communication of the 21st of March last — That Government were — "
determined to punish Major General Gedde and as long as — "
has elapsed without the subject of the charges having been reduced to me
I am apprehensive, Honble Sir you have been prevailed upon
not to bring either Mr. Gedde or Colonel Smith to [illegible] "

the Artillery will be Honours unnecessarily distressing in no way not only of Expelling myself before a General Court Martial or to Government and the Honorable Court of Directors; but of following up with Evidence, the Strong Lines of a Marked Conspiracy which your Honor in Council may perceive some slight features of, the Charges exhibited, that appear to have been carrying on against me, and out of which I am persuaded the Mutiny Originated I have therefore to Request that Government will be pleased to call upon Major General Sydenham for Copies of such Orders or Instructions as he may have given, under their Authority, and apply such remedy Whatever as the Case may appear to require

I have the honor to be, Honble Sir, with Respect
Your most Obedient and most Humble Servant
(Signed) Thomas Geils

St Thomas's Mount 23.d June 1798.

Major General Geils — St Thomas's Mount

Sir, I am directed to acquaint you that the Commander in Chief has received your Letter of the 22d Instant and that he Cannot Comply with the Request it Contains.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most Obedient Humble Servant
(Signed) John Gardiner Secretary

Fort St George
26. June 1798

The

To The Honble Lieut. General Harris President Governor in Council
and Commander in Chief &c. &c. &c.

Honble Sir

I have the honor to enclose for the information of your Honor in Council an Address from me to the Commander in Chief of the 22d. in Consequence of Mr. Secretary Webbs Summary Letter of the 20th instant and the Commander in Chief reply through his Secretary of this date which I have the honor to request with Copies of my Letters of the 10th. 14th and 19th instant thereon alluded to may be submitted to the Right Honble the Governor General in Council.

In the first and second charges which I had the honor to exhibit on the 20th instant against Colonel David Smith, I request the Words wilful be introduced before, neglect of Duty, as more discriptive of his Crime, than as implied in Merely, neglect of duty as it stands at present.

I have the honor to be with respect Honble Sir.

Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

Signed Thomas Geils.

St. Thomas's Mount
26th June 1794

To The Honble Lieut. General Harris President Governor in Council
and Commander in Chief &c. &c. &c.

Honble Sir

Permit me to suggest my apprehensions Honble Sir from the Comparative length of time that has elapsed since I had the honor of exhibiting charges of a very serious Complexion against Mr. Conductor Clarke and Colonel David Smith of the 2nd Battalion of Artillery without having been honored with any

To Major General Goile

Sir, I am directed to acknowledge the Receipt of your Several Letters dated 10th 16th and 19th instant, and to inform you that the Honble the Governor in Council cannot Comply with your request.—

I have the Honor to be, Sir, your most Obedient humble Servant

Fort St George
20th June 1797.—

Signed J. Webbe Secretary to Government

Signed John Turing Esqr—

Lieutenant General Harris Commander in Chief

Sir, I have been honored with a Letter from Mr Webbe Secretary to your Honor in Council, dated the 20th Instant and delivered to me at eight o'Clock last night signifying me that he is directed to acknowledge the receipt of my Several Letters dated 10th 16th and 19th Instant, and to inform me, that the Honorable the Governor in Council cannot Comply with my Request.—

It is needless to Recapitulate to you, Sir, as Commander in Chief what those Letters Contained, having already been before you as Governor in Council on Several matters Comparatively and different with the principal object of my Correspondence—I will only presume to Suppose, I may have been unintentionally informal in my Application to Government, to intercede with You, to Order a General Court Martial, to enquire into my Conduct, which you alone were Authorized to Warrant in your Capacity of Commander in Chief—Under this presumption I have to Offer my humble Submissions, for not having made the Application to yourself, Sir, and at an Earlier Day and have to request in the most earnest and Submissive manner, you will be pleased in Conformity of the Articles of War, and the Rules

and Customs of the Army to order a General Court Martial, to investigate my Conduct, that has undergone so much undeserved Censure on account of the late unfortunate Mutiny that happened in the Artillery at St Thomas's Mount, on the 15th and 16th of January last—or that you will be pleased, Sir, to forward my Application for a like purpose to His Excellency Lieutenant General Alured Clarke, the Commander in Chief in India—

I have the Honor to be, Sir, with Respect Your most Obedient and most humble Servant—(Signed) Thomas Goels

St Thomas's Mount 22d June 1798—

The Honble Lieutenant General Harris President in Council and Commander in Chief &c &c &c

Honble Sir,

I have to acknowledge the Receipt of Mr Secretary Webbe's Summary Letter, of the 20th Instant acquainting me that he was directed to acknowledge the Receipt of my several Letters dated 10th 14th and 16th Instant; and to inform me your Honor in Council could not comply with my Request—

It has just come to my Knowledge that Your Hon'r in Council, has been induced to write, through Major General Sydenham, as Commanding Officer of Artillery, to all Officers in Command of Stations and Detachments of the Corps authorizing them Officers to discourage any attempts to become an Inquiry tending to ascertain the Origin and Cause of the late mutiny at the Mount, As such order, if it should not have been further explained by Major General Sydenham to extend only as far as it relates to the Officers and Privates of the

To Major General Gates

Sir, I am directed to acknowledge the Receipt of your Several Letters dated 10th 14th and 19th instant, and to inform you that the Honble the Governor in Council cannot Comply with your request.

I have the Honor to be, Sir, your most Obedient humble Servant

Fort St George
20th June 1797.

signed J. Webbe Secretary to Government

signed John Turing Capt

Lieutenant General Harris Commander in Chief

Sir, I have been honored with a Letter from Mr Webbe Secretary to your Honor in Council, dated the 20th Instant and delivered to me at eight o'Clock last night acquainting me that he is directed to acknowledge the receipt of my Several Letters dated 10th 14th and 19th Instant, and to inform me, that the Honorable the Governor in Council cannot Comply with my Request.—

It is needless to Recapitulate to you, Sir, as Commander in Chief what those Letters Contained, having already been before you as Governor in Council — or to bind matters Comparatively indifferent with the principal object of my Correspondence — I will only presume to suppose, I may have been unintentionally informal in my Application to Government, to intercede with you, to Order a General Court Martial to enquire into my Conduct; which you alone were Authorized to Demand as your Capacity of Commander in Chief — Under this presumption, I have to offer my humble Submissions, for not having made the Application to yourself, Sir, and at an Earlier Day and now to Request in the most earnest and Submissive manner, you will be pleased in Conformity of the Articles of War, and the Rules

and

and Customs of the Army to order a General Court Martial, to investigate my Conduct, that has undergone so much undeserved Censure on account of the late unfortunate Mutiny that happened in the Artillery at St. Thomas's Mount, on the 15th and 16th of January last-or that you will be pleased, Sir, to forward my Application for a like purpose to His Excellency Lieutenant General Oliver Clarke, the Commander in Chief in India.—

I have the Honor to be, Sir, with Respect Your most Obedient and most humble Servant —(Signed) Thomas Gelt

St. Thomas's Mount 22d. June 1798 —

The Honble Lieutenant General Harris President in Council and Commander in Chief &c. &c. &c.

Honble Sir,

I have to acknowledge the Receipt of Mr Secretary Webbe's Summary Letter, of the 20th Instant acquainting me that he was directed to acknowledge the Receipt of my several Letters dated 10th 14th and 19th Instant, and to inform me your Honor in Council could not Comply with my Request —

It has just come to my knowledge that your Hon. in Council, has been pleased to write, through Major General Sydenham, as Commanding Officer of Artillery, to all Officers in Command of Stations and Detachments of the Corps authorizing them Officers to discourage any attempts to procure information tending to ascertain the Origin and Cause of the late mutiny at the Mount, As such order, if it should not have been fully explained by Major General Sydenham to extend only as far as it relates to the Officers Commissioned and Private [illegible]

the

itself in the 2d. Battalion of artillery and thereby throwing the whole Apparent Odium of the Mutiny on the 1st. Battalion contrary to what Since Appears to have been the fact.—

Secondly I Charge Colonel Davis Smith as aforesaid with wilful neglect of Duty on the night of the 15th. of January last in not awaking himself, of the means in his Power and more especially of the Offer made him by Captain Tanner of his Company ready paraded to quell the Mutiny or Sedition at that time prevailing with a part of the 1st. Battalion of artillery at the mount, between the hours of eight and Eleven O'Clock on the Evening of the 15th. of January last, and that he might be altogether incapacitated to act on the Occasion desiring the Mutineers would make him prisoner, that he would become an hostage, and passing his word and honor that Grievances should be redressed and no one punished, at a period when there were only about Seventy or eighty of the Mutineers under arms, but at that time without any Gun.—

Thirdly, I Charge Colonel Davis Smith as aforesaid with an extraordinary dereliction and Culpable neglect of Duty between the Hours of Ten and Twelve o'Clock at Night on the 15th. of January last, being Shortly anterior to my return and of assuming the Command at the mount, and of not reporting the Circumstance to me. That after the Mutineers had at the instigation of Some person or Persons not yet positively known, a Second time broke out and drawn Seven or eight 6 Pounders from the Park and after this took place and after they had apparently become quiet and were so far disposed to return to their Duty, that Some of the

the non Commissioned Officers amongst whom were
had proposed to
them to draw the Guns back to the Park again and had
actually taken one of them, as far as the first Clump of
Trees, or bridge as it is called, to which the whole of the
Mutineers appeared to Consent, and were otherwise seemingly
ready to follow the Example, by drawing the remaining Guns away,
when all resistance and Consequently the Mutiny would have
been at an end But that Colonel Smith at that moment
called out, for Reasons best Known to himself — "There was
"no Occasion to take the Guns away until the morning" or
words to that effect; upon which the Mutineers altered their
minds and Came down and forcibly drew back the Guns again
to the Front of the Barracks that had been taken from them
Whereby he the Said Colonel David Smith not only shifted the
Guns remaining out of the Park during the whole of the
night (which he did not report to me) and thereby prolonged
the Continuance of the Mutiny until next Day, that Seemed
in so fair a way of being quelled, even before my return from
Commander in Chief and the Possibility of any thing being effected
by me as I found by experience before next Morning, at
which time I was Obliged to Concede to the Artillery men in
General what had been promised by Colonel Smith to the
Mutineers in particular the night before, namely a Redress
of their Supposed Grievances, and that no one Should be
punished as the 2d Battalion had joined the first in the
Mutiny and every thing had then become Riot and Outrage.—

(Signed) Thomas Gent

St Thomas's Mount 20th June 1798—

To Honble Lieutenant General Harris. President Governor in Council
and Commander in Chief &c &c &c

Honble Sir I had the honor to address your honor in Council on the 15th and 16th Instant, to which I beg leave to refer Your and I now humbly presume to offer charges to Your Honor in Council, which I request may be submitted to the Commander in Chief and eventually to the Commander in Chief in India, against Mr. Conductor late Serjeant Major Clarke of the 2d Battalion of Artillery, and Colonel David Smith Commanding Officer under Major General Sydenham of the same Corps and to assure Your Honor in Council, that I do not mean by this intrusion, to throw any obstacle or obstruction in the way of my own Trial, which I trust in the justice of Government Nothing can hinder, but only to apprise Your Honor in Council so much of the Measures as have been carrying on against Me as may be consistent at this time with my defence — The blank in the charge I have presumed to offer against Colonel Smith I shall have the honor of filling up the moment Government are pleased speedily to announce their protection to my Evidences, and who are at present without such protection alarmed for their own safety —

I have the honor to be with respect, Honble Sir
Your most Obedient and faithful humble Servant

St Thomas Mount 29th June 1795 (Signed) Thomas Geils

First Charge William Clarke Conductor of Stores and late Serjeant Major of the 2d Battalion of Artillery, with having had a previous knowledge of the Mutiny, intended Mutiny or sedition that took place in the artillery at St Thomas's Mount on the 15th and 16th of January last, and of not reporting the same —

to

to Colonel Smith, or other his Commanding Officer.—

Secondly — I Charge William Clarke as above, with being Aiding, and assisting in the Mutiny intended Mutiny, or Sedition as above specified in the first Charge — The whole being a Breach of the 14th Article of the 2d Section of the Articles of War, for the better Government of the Officers and Soldiers in the Service of the united Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.—

Signed Thomas Geils.

St Thomas's Mount 20th June 1798.—

First, I Charge Colonel Davis Smith, Lieutenant Colonel of the 2d Battalion of Artillery, with Wilful neglect of Duty on the 15th of January last, In that he Colonel Davis Smith being Commanding Officer on the Spot at the Mount, between the hours of Seven in the Evening and Twelve o'Clock at night, publickly declared on his first coming upon the Parade and within hearing of Several of the Men, "he thought Something was happening" alluding to the Mutiny — "and Staid at Home for fear of it" — or words to that effect; and having from such Confession, Certain Mysterious Meetings held at his House, with Doors and Windows Shut, and from his Regimental Orders of the same Day, evidently owned a previous Knowledge or Suspicion of the Mutiny or intended Mutiny or Sedition that took place in the Artillery at the Mount on the 15th Day of January as aforesaid did not report the Same to me his immediate Commanding Officer, Commanding Officer of Artillery and of the Cantonments at St Thomas's Mount, or take any other Steps beyond such Regimental Order, and Remaining with his Adjutant &c. in the Cantonments on the Evening of the 15th to prevent its Manifesting

itself

General Gells Mount Sir. supposing you wish to know every circumstance connected with the unfortunate Mutiny at the Mount and more particularly those which relate to yourself. I thought it my duty to acquaint You that the following particulars which came under my observation, during the late Trial of Stumbles – I was at Madras in charge of some of the Evidences, when Mr. Leith and Mr. Charleton came out of Court and calling me to them, asked me, if I knew whether the man was brought to a Court Martial, who knocked down Corporal Laffrae – I answered I did not – Mr. Leith then asked me if General Gells did not remit the Sentence passed on him by the Court Martial – I answered, I did not recollect if he had been brought to a Court Martial at all, or not – They seemed both to insist on it, that I must know, being at the Mount and a Non Commissioned Officer – They were still very pressing, and I answered I did not know, but at any rate, Colonel Saxon commanded the Battalion at the time the circumstance took place

This is all that passed at that time, But on the night of the 16th January, after the Men were seemingly a little quiet and reconciled, I with some other Non Commissioned Officers, of which Corporal Miles was one, proposed to draw the Guns down to the Bank, and had taken one, as far as the first Bridge, to which all the people seemed to agree, and I really believe would have followed our Example, but that Colonel Smith said, there was no occasion to take the Guns away till Morning, upon which the people seemed to alter their minds, and came and drew back the Gun we had taken from them – All this happened before you came into the Cantonment, Sir,

and

and which I am ready to attest upon oath, whenever you may be pleased to call upon me — I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

Arnee
14th June 1798

(Signed) Sergeant

I was at the Gun, which Sergeant alludes to above, and can testify, that the words which Colonel Smith mentioned respecting the Guns remaining where they were till morning are true.

Arnee 14th June 1798 (Signed) Joseph Miles Corporal
56

The Honble Lieutenant General Harris President Governor in Council and Commander in Chief &c &c &c.

Honble Sir, As the termination of my Pay and allowances from the 13th of April last the period from which Your Honor in Council has been pleased to suspend me from the Honorable Company's Service has already been attended with inconveniency and distress to me, and as I cannot suppose it to be in the intention of Government to punish me unnecessary in this way — I have to offer such Security as they may think proper, for eventually refunding the Amount and to request that Your Honor in Council will be pleased to permit of my drawing the usual Monthly allowances as Colonel Commandant of Artillery, or such other Monthly and Specific Sum for my Subsistence as You, Sir, may think proper to commence from the period of my suspension —

I have the honor to be Honble Sir
Your most obedient and most humble Servant
(Signed)
Thomas Geils

St. Thomas Mount
19th June 1798

Extract of a letter from Arnee dated 10th June 1793

Oh, that your Father may get a Court Martial - what a thunderbolt it will prove to some folks - Tell your Father, that I have nothing more very material yet, but on asking some questions he said that during the last General Court Martial, over stumbled and the other, he was called out of court by Leith and Charleton, & asked, whether he knew for a certainty, who it was, that excused the Man that knocked down Corporal Laffrae, whether it was not General Goddard. He said he did not know whether the man had been sentenced punishment or not - your Father will soon see the drift of the question. the Business of Laffrae, happened I believe three or four Months previous to the Mutiny and from what I can recollect it was never known for certain, who did knock him down - There is scarce a man in the Company who does not enquire after your Father, when they have any thing to say to me, and it is always with a hope that he will rise on the backs of his Enemies -

To Lieutenant General Harris President Governor in Council and Commander in Chief &c &c &c

Honble Sir. I had the honour to address you on the 10th Instant and in referring to this and to my several letters but more especially to that of the 15th of April, immediately after my suspension, ... permit me again to approach Your Honor in Council, and to express my extreme concern, for the occasion that has drawn down the heavy displeasure of Government on my Conduct, in consequence of my letter of the 13th March with its enclosures, addressed

addressed to me by a report of the officers of artillery and unfeigned sorrow that Government should have been thereby obliged, from so unguarded an act of mine, to have poured down their displeasure so heavily upon me, which I can only attribute to the extremely painful and distracted state I was in at the time, from the pleasure I had felt, and the dreadful anxiety that now corrodes my mind and though I cannot recall what has unfortunately happened, I have ever been ready to express my contrition, and to attribute what I have done to precipitancy and want of reflection at the moment - as nothing else could have induced me to so rash a measure, as to force Government to the steps they have been necessarily obliged to take against me, and after this unqualified apology, permit me again, Honble Sir, earnestly to request the Letters and papers that occasioned it, may be with drawn, and the Commander in Chief requested to Order a General Court Martial to investigate my Conduct, during the Mutiny on the night of the 15th and morning of the 16th of January last in order that I may have an opportunity of acquitting myself to Government and my Honble Employers of any neglect of duty on my part. and I beg leave further to request, Honble Sir, that I may be indulged eventually so far as that a Duplicate of this application may be sent from the Commander in Chief on the Coast to His Excellency the Commander in Chief in India, seconded by a recommendation of Government, that my request may be complied with.

I have the honor to be, with every sentiment of respect, Honble Sir
Your most obedient and most humble Servant

Signed Thomas Veels
General.

St. Thomas Mount
14th June 1778

I humbly presume would not have been allowed to pass unnoticed — nor can it with your honor in Council, whenever the Circumstances shall be fairly brought to light, but Mr. Conductor Clarke deceived Lieutenant Cookesley he reported all he knew, and I have sufficient evidence to prove, that he knew of the Mutiny or intended Mutiny, before any overt act in the Men, which if he reported as he says he did, must exculpate himself, and the blame attaches to the officer or Officers alone, to whom his report was made, and who did not make a report thereof to me, as it was his or their duty to have done, or take any other steps to avert so dreadful a calamity — A Calamity, by which several lives have been forfeited to the Laws of their Country, and many more might have suffered, from such culpable Neglect, had I acted any otherwise than I did in quelling the Mutiny —

Lieutenant Cookesley, whom Government have been pleased to order to join his Corps at Arnee — without any delay whatever — from its having been represented, possibly by some person interested for his own safety — that he had been examining evidences — informs me by Letter under date the 5th Instant, that on Tuesday, the 29th Ultimo, when he had last the honor of paying his respects to You, previous to his Departure and to explain the Manner and Nature of the Evidence he had obtained — You were pleased to observe to him that the Mutiny, as far as it concerns the Non Commissioned and Privates, was brought to a proper and natural conclusion and must not be stirred up again — or all the Corps would resent and that You were likewise pleased to add

if

"if he" meaning myself I presume, has any thing to say against the Officers, in Gods name let him bring it forward and I will be glad to do him all the justice in my power."—

I should have concluded such to have been Your sentiments, Honble Sir, from the ordinary course of justice, If I had not understood You had expressed Yourself directly to this effect, and apparently with a View from the person You addressed them to of their coming to my knowledge; but as matters have taken an extraordinary turn in our relative situations, Honble Sir, since the proceedings and reports of the Board of Officers of which Major General Rooke was president, ordered to enquire into the Subject of the Mutiny at the Mount, I am compelled to request that You will be pleased to say, whether those were the precise sentiments You meant to express, and if so that You will be pleased to Cancel the Orders now in force here forbidding the Non Commissioned Officers and Private of the Artillery from coming to my house or conversing with my Servants, and give publick protection to my Evidences, who in order to commune with me, as above Stated, are obliged to steal to my Quarters in the dead of night (and which was the case likewise on a former occasion) to avoid Lascar guards, privately posted without Jackets on the avenues leading to my House, to prevent them, and at the risque of being subsequently punished, for disobedience of such orders — and having premised this, I hereby declare, Honble Sir, that I have charges of a very serious nature to exhibit against an Officer which I am in like manner ready to Submit privately to You, Sir, having no other means of submission without injury to my defence, and until I am first tried and honorably acquitted myself, a period I trust to be at no great distance —

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of respect, Honble Sir Your most obedient and humble Servant (Signed) Thomas Geils

St. Thomas Mount 10th June 1798 —

hearing before You go on Board. I think that as it now stands the event of a Trial to is to be Little doubted – I have just received Yours of Yesterday, as those to my recollection were the word General Harris used on the Tuesday morning I last saw him – "The "Mutiny as far as it concerns the Non Commissioned and privates "was brought to a proper and Natural conclusion, and must not be "stirred up again, or all the Corps would desert – If he has any "thing to say against the Officers, in Gods name let him bring it "forward, I shall be glad to do him all the justice in my power. This I think is all he said upon that head –

I the undermentioned, declare, that on the night of the 15th January Last, I heard Colonel Smith say upon coming on the Parade – what do you want Men? what is all this? I expected something of this kind would occur, and I think he added I am glad I staid at home, most of my Officers are in the Cantonments or words to that effect – so help me God.

Agree June 5th 1798 — [Signed] Sergeant

Witness

The Honble Lieutenant General Harris President Governor in Council . . and Commander in Chief &c &c &c

Honble Sir – I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Secretary Webb's Letter of the 25th Ultimo: intimating to me the determination of Government against any proceedings that Might lead to a renewal of disquisitions in the Ps

on which the publication of the Court Martial ought finally to have
closed, and requiring me in consequence to desist from all commu-
nications of this nature in future that may concern the Non commissioned
and Privates of the Artillery —

This Resolution, Honble Sir, is so perfectly consonant with
my own sentiments and feelings, that I can have little to offer beyond
a tacit acquiescence therein and my most solemn assurances to Your
Honor in Council that since the promulgation of the sentence of the
General Court Martial, no enquiry of Mine ever went, nor shall it ever
go further, than with a view to a fair and honorable justification of my
conduct on the occasion of the late unfortunate Mutiny, which has
been so unjustly and illegally dealt with, and which the Trial of M.r
Conductor Clarke who does not come within the discription of either non
Commissioned or Private, will go a great way to establish; and —
notwithstanding my own Trial is the first thing to be wished for and
desired by me, I have again to repeat to You, that I have in my possession
the clearest written Evidence of Conductor Clarke's guilt in the
manner expressed in my letter to Government of the 23d Ultimo, and
I am ready to shew those proofs to You, Sir, at any time You please,
but I cannot with propriety submit the Papers immediately to
Government as it might be laying open and consequently injuring
my own defence — and I will venture to affirm the whole Corps
of Artillery are ready to bear witness to the general innocence of a
character that has been imposed upon You Honble Sir, as deserving
to be promoted to the Station of Conductor of Stores in
consideration of the propriety of his Conduct on the 15th 16th and
January last — an imputation which if it had applied to me,

I

in a manner not proper and that he did not recollect that I had owed to him. that I had called and mentioned some particular circumstances at General Geils request. I told him that I had mentioned those circumstances to him at General Geils's request. but that I did not say so at the time. that I communicated them to him - I only mentioned them as matter of conversation. - he proceeded to say that he was obliged to me for my candour. and that he had always acted in the case of General Geils with a consciousness of propriety, and conviction that he had gone every length to serve him that friendship could pos out, but that he could do no more without departing from his du - I observed to him, that it would appear to him, one time or ot by the general's publick letter to Bengal, that he exculpat - him for the part he had taken in his case - and had attribut - all his difficulties, to a party that surrendered him - He cried quickly so he always says. - There is no party - I said it was General Geils's firm opinion, and he doubted not but General Harris would yet one time discover - He answered - "God, I dont think so" - in a manner much softened from the way in which he first denied it - He called to Mr. Lushington, and said to him he was exceedingly gratified at the open manner I had answered to the charge that was given against me, out of which the order respecting me had arisen, and said he should mention it in Council that morning - that had I left the Presidency without seeing him he should have been much disappointed & and told Mr. Lushington, that I had confirmed him in his opinion, that I had not mentioned having intimated to him Clarkes business as

as by General Gails request — He observed that neither Andrew nor I am would have had Commissions in the Kings, but that he had recommended them both as Governor and Commander in Chief —

Nothing gives me so much pleasure, as the advances we are making towards the conviction of those abominable Rascals

I enclose you the declaration of which runs which and speaks, if you observe fully to the of Colonel Smiths apprehensions of a Mutiny this is the only evidence I have yet got, but I think it very probable I shall get more soon, when I shall hasten to communicate them to you — I will proceed to relate to You a Circumstance that I think may be ful on a justice day tells me that on the morning of the 15th man of the 74th held a conversation with of Captain Campbells, for full two hours and an half in the centre of the Parade; that it commenced before the Guard was Mounted, of which was Serjeant, continued the whole time it was Parading and relieving and long after — that when it concluded, he saw the Man of the 74th run with all his might round the end of the Mount towards Boonamalee — This occurrence was remarkable and deemed to interest — of every man on Guard — That Captain Tanner, who was Captain of the day that day — some time after the Mutiny asked or whether the question as first put by himself to Captain Tanner or not, is not quite certain — whether he remarked it or not" but of the fact, that Captain Tanner made the same observation this fact and perfectly recollected it. —

I hope you may have matter to bring this to a — [illegible]

been written and sent for publication as well as the communications from the Surgeon which Captain Williamson has transmitted with his defence evinces that his plea of mental derangement is only a subterfuge to which he has had recourse in the hope of screening himself from the disgrace and punishment which by his own acknowledgement ought to attach to the author of such a Letter --

The Acting Governor General in Council, therefore taking into consideration the clear proof before him of Captain Williamson having deliberately written and directed the publication of the Letter signed a Native, has no hesitation in pronouncing him guilty of endeavouring to subvert all order and subordination, to create discontent and disaffection in the Army and particularly to excite them to oppose the introduction of a Regulation prescribed by the Honble Court of Directors and which although the operation of it has been suspended has been communicated to them in G.O. --

The Acting Governor General in Council deeming the conduct of Captain Williamson to be not only highly criminal, but of so dangerous a tendency as to call for the interposition of the immediate authority of Government for the punishment of it, Resolves, that he be dismissed from the service of the Company, until the pleasure of the Honorable Court of Directors be known --

(Signed) William Scott Adjt Genl

Adjutant Generals Office 9th May 1798 --

To Major General Gells. . . . Fort St George

Sir, I am directed by the Acting Governor General in Council to return your Letter of the 22 Ultimo, with its enclosures and to express to you, his astonishment, at the wilful irregularity of the

the Communication, and the injurious reflections it is intended to cast on respectable individuals, as well as on the Government under which You have served, and that he cannot but consider it as a great aggravation of Your very reprehensible Conduct, which it has been their duty to Censure and punish. —

I am, Sir, Your most obedient humble Servant

Fort William the 10th May 1798 — /Signed/ John Stracy Sub Secretary

Ed P. H. Bromley

Memorandum of Lieutenant Cookesley

On the 29th 1798. I waited on General Harris and expressed my surprize at the Order of Government, commanding me to join my Corps at Arnee without delay particularly as he had a few days before granted me his permission to remain at the Presidency as long as ever it might be convenient to my Commanding Officer — he expressed great pleasure at seeing me and said he would deal frankly with me and told me it was in consequence of a publick Notification before Council from Mr Mount, that I had been active in getting evidence to prosecute Conductor Clarke, that as Government had come to a resolution, the object of the Mutiny should be entirely dropt — They had taken that method of expressing their disapprobation in tenderness to me, and then alluded to the manner he had conducted himself towards me, Andrew and Tom during the whole business — in not requiring reasons &c as were required of all the others concerned in the address he said, he was much hurt at a letter he had received from General Geils, which stated my having called on him some days prior, by his request (General Geils) That it was confounding private conversation and publick business in

nes known meanings would be to know purpose. - Let it suffice that he is now known to be the greatest Enemy not only to this Army, but of the whole Indean proprietary, and that, whenever his names Mentioned or his principles professed instant distrust will follow - In some few trifles he may succeed but should his cunning prevail in escaping the vigilance of our Masters at home, there will be found in the minds of injured — men such a portion of resentment as cannot fail of warding off the blow which possibly may return upon the worthy donor with redoubled force -

Let me assure you Mr. Editor, that this Army cannot be exceeded in loyalty and propriety of conduct as well as of sentiment therefore why from time to time goad them in so wanton a Manner, with proposals for changes to which they have expressed their Utmost abhorrence? why not leave them in that state which has been the result of a long solicitation and which was thought to be given them as permanent? why make in their minds the scintellations of discontent and disaffection? A Crisis has passed, and in lieu of Urging a repetition of the experiment all should be happy that matters are no worse and Guard against whatever may be likely to give a second shock which May not prove so innocent as the first -

March 2. 1798 /Signed/ Mentor

By the Commander in Chief 9th May 1798 -

The attention of the acting Governor General in Council having been drawn to a Letter under the signature of Mentor inserted in a news paper called the Telegraph of the 5th March last he considers it a duty incumbent on him to take measures for

discovering the Author of that Letter and it is with great concern, that he finds it to have been written by an Officer in the Honble Companys Army—

The acting Governor General in Council has now before him the original of the draft of the letter, under the Signature of Mentor, in the hand writing of Captain Thomas George Williamson, with a private note addressed by that Officer to Editor of the Telegraph, also in his own hand writing, and signed with his name, transmitting to the Editor the Letter in question, and desiring him to insert it in the News Paper—

Captain Williamson in a reply (which is also in his own hand writing) to a requisition from Government to state what he had to urge in his Defence does not positively — deny having written either the letter or the private note to the Editor of the News paper — He admits indeed, that he may have written the note, from a remembrance of a transaction alluded to in it, but he disavows all recollection of having actually — written the note or the letter, and has endeavoured by producing letters from the Surgeon, who attended him during a late — " — — disposition and by a most pointed Censure of the letter signed Mentor to establish, that if he is the author of that Letter, he must have been at the time of writing it, in a state of mental " — derangement occasioned by his disorder, and the effects of a recent course of medicine.

From the peculiarity of Captain Williamsons hand writing and the facility with which it could have been proved, it is apparent that he could not deny that the original draft of the letter and the Note to the Editor of the News Paper were of his writing, with my hope that his denial would be credited, and the Letter itself, added to the deliberation with which the Note to the Editor, establishes, that I have

been

[illegible] over the
[illegible] remain in a
Corps established on the original views of the whole service - and further
ornamented with the elegant [illegible] of anathemas of which his Lordship was so
[illegible] liberal towards them? - -

But how could his Lordship ever expect persons of any rank to remain
[illegible] European Regiment when peculation was fostered under his eye whenhe
with the most protection to the greatest delinquents? Observe Mr.
I do not mean to say but what his Lordship had a just sense of
the crime of we saw that peculation on the Sepoy Corps would ruin us;
if repose he contemplated Suckely the Demon of intrigue got a little tipsey
at the prospect of success and Calliban like let out his
machinations he discovered a little too early

His Lowsley says that he never dreamd of any intention of coercing
the Companys Officers to enter the Kings Regements and that previous to
reducing the Companys it had been proffered by himself to add on number
to the native Regements thereby making way for the admission of nearly
all the Companys Officers from the European Corps - -

If such was the case why not have it openly avowed previous to
[illegible] the adoption of the measure? why endeavour in the most
[illegible] and sudden manner to take the Companys Army by surprize
and [illegible] that to which they had all along expressed their aversion?
[illegible] ever be recollected that even under such circumstances the
[illegible] European branch would have shortly proved
[illegible] the ruin of the native line but ultimately the [illegible]

Let us however, endeavour to reconcile ourselves to the measure what certainly could we have of the retention of the Native Corps, and when retended, what security should we have for the permanency of their existence? - A long experience should make us cautious of relying on the M^q^ marquis's assertions and late instances of many parts of the regulations, such as the Depot for recruits Regimental Pay-masters &c &c evince how little any Establishment can be depended on —

I am grieved to find that his Lordship feels wounded by the mention of his illustrious predecessor his Lordship in a nettled moment insinuates, that Lord Clive's character yet stands high although he had offended the Army True it does so; but let his Lordship know, that it was to Clive's dying day a deep & frequently mentioned regret, that ever he had stained his otherwise unspotted fame, by adopting those harsh, cruel and unjust measures which cost him the affection of his Army — an Army that condemned his conduct in that instance, but who never allowed their —— resentments to lead them into the depreciation of his great merits They have ever confessed his Abilities they have ever spoken of him as a consummate Politician and great general: and while they May have freely vented their Spleen on the subject of the —— injury done by him to themselves, they never outweighed against his principles as a Statesman, nor could they indeed find an opening to say, that after having surrendered one Army he ever attempted by treachery, dissimulation and artifice, to supply the loss to the Crown by the ruin of another —

But to discuss his Lordship's plans is endless to follow him through the mazes of his wiles, and to unravel

his

every possible comfort and want of the necessaries of life leaving them open to the [illegible] or secure them board to prevent that advantage according to them —

It is wonderful what avaidiness the Marquess has equally with his majesty whom God bless at always forgetting to remember the real causes of events —

He does not recollect that his first Orders on arriving in India were [illegible] to the respectability of the Company's European Regiments which in a very short while his Lordship literally converted into the Filth Person of the service perhaps owing to that same intentional brevity of memory which at call to mind that when he was intent on shewing his highest displeasure he removed Officers from Native Corps to European Regiments as could be proved in many cases of his arbitrary and unjust interference even in matters in which his Lordship ought by no means to have made himself so much a party as to threaten in General Orders his intention of becoming Bailiff — or at least if not the Lion himself to be the Jackall —

And so his Lordship really does not find any individual who could be injured by the adoption of Regimental ranks well done my Lord —

Let us in reply to this suppose that the youngest Cadet of 1792 was placed as senior Lieutenant in a Regiment and that oldest of 1792 is to be placed in a similar situation on revise of the Army List well know that such is the case with those persons, that it would be an equal case the younger of the two obtained promotion before the eldest and consequently the latter would lose no less than eight years of service. But similar instances might be adduced through every rank and branch of the Compa[illegible]

regard to his Lordship's mode of setting matters to rights (for he is
urged to confess they may go wrong) it is sufficient to state in answer
his proposal of removing an old Officer whose rise may appear to prove
rather slow to supersede the Officers of another Regiment to whom
service might prove at all favorable that the Bengal Army have already had
sufficient instance and sensible experience of the patronage of discernment
His Lordship displayed when to favor an individual he violated every
principle of the Service wounded the feelings of all and grievously injured
a great portion of Officers of the most unblemished characters and
distinguished abilities.

Yet this man has the boldness to say he means to protect us against
the abuse of patronage by established regulations. !!!

His Lordship expresses surprize that in seven years notwithstanding
all his influence and excellent management of which the foregoing
may be considered a prominent instance he could only prevail on one
Field Officer to remain in an European Regiment. —

Does his Lordship's excellent and commodious memory urge
him to forget that Field Officers of the Sepoy Brigades were the only
Officers detached to command at Annopshier Midnapore Purneah &
and that in the Sepoy Corps at the least one half more were on Double full
than those of the European Regements. —

Does not his Lordships own ambitious and arbitrary mind tell
him that man bred in the line of military honor and Command feel more pleasure
in presiding over six Battalions than over one? — And does not his —
Lordships own pride for surely he has enough for me to appeal to.

To the Editor of the Telegraph

Sir I have just read your Calcutta Telegraph of the 25th Ultimo containing an address to the Court of Directors signed by most of the Company's Officers now in London together with a letter from Marquis Cornwallis dated may

Every person must be sensible that a News paper Discussion of such a Subject is by no means acceptable to an Editor who on these days generally breaks out into a very fine piece perseveration whenever an essay or letter at all relating to it is offered to his press but I am confident my Address will be found perfectly free from all obnoxious matter and that supported as you are by your Brother Officers you will chearfully continue the aid of your present profession towards their interest and satisfaction

I observe that the Court of Directors submitted the letter from the Officers to Mr. Dundas who with a truly becoming and worthy condescension bearing no doubt quite a Stranger to the subject of its contents refers the consideration of it to the Marquis expecting from that elevated character the most proper and reasonable comments on the points which gave rise to the address —

The Marquis unwillingly to be held forth too obviously as the sole author of the plan is now preparing for the Company's army with a degree of firmness declares that in several conferences with Mr. Dundas he had fully explained his Sentiments thereby indicating that the worthy President for Indian Affairs might distinctly have ascertained from himself from the above mentioned confabs he was became [illegible] of the topic and

[illegible] Marquis's sentiments —

Thus far I must confess that I admire the Marques for after a due regard of experience of the opinions of this army he throws aside the mask and with a proper assurance acknowledges all that he has recommended —

God forbid that we should for one moment suppose there was cause to have been at any time passive, but how far he was active in his endeavours "to relieve the Companys Officers from all just and real cause of complaint" appears yet to be substantiated —

What can his Lordship mean by urging that promotion by seniority tends to destroy all spirit of energy and attention to discipline? —

Does his Lordship mean to insinuate that Officers in Command of Regiments do not possess the authority over the respective ranks under them in every mode of promotion alike? — And would he from so specious an inference endeavour to persuade the world that an army to whom he has on many occasions expressed his unbounded thanks and admission of their (as he says) " unsurpassed energy and publick spirit" can never be brought to perfection but by conferring on them the further Lordship of wantonly degrading and ultimately annihilating them? —

Does the noble Peer recollect that but for the energy and discipline the Companys Army he might from his economising and destructive system of reducing even the Carriage Cattle to a mere nought have left his lauels to wave to the ferugenous soul of the battering shot with which every Army unanimously galled their own shoulders in [illegible] Bangalore to Seringapatam thereby reserving [illegible]

Service precludes the possibility of having the best of Europeans —

The only causes for the proceedings on the 15th January last amongst the Men of the 5th Battalion as far as I can learn by enquiry was bad advices from men of other Corps — The white Jackets and the lateness of pay that month

14th May 1798

My dear Comrades

I think if you was to solicit with a genteel Petition for me and beg [illegible] and the other Officers to try with the Governor I think that I should have [illegible] yet — But dont think I am afraid to die, no — but to be hung in Chains Oh God. — If they would blow me away I would not care but I [illegible] shew this geddy world that as I boldly did I can bravely die — Oh Serjeant Major Clarke, that's the man that falsely sworé my life away but I — forgive him and hope God will do so Pray never mention it to him as I forgive all men and I hope God will forgive me all yet and on Thurs — day Evening I hope to rest in Jesus and with Angels in that state of — bless — Pray to God for my Soul and remember that my blood seals those rights you may loving Brothers now enjoy — I hope to — meet you all in heaven and I trust in God — if any one of you can send me a small Prayer Book I shall be obliged to you and send a Chit by the Boy to me with it and I am yours — in the Lord. Signed) William Stumbles —

This I believe will be the last Chit I shall send to you in this world — Adieu! — Adieu! —

Head Quarters of the Army Choultry plain 28th. May 1798. ——

The Honorable the Governor in Council having addressed the subjoined Orders Commander in Chief to be published to the Army they are accordingly published in Military Orders —

Fort St. George G. O. By Government.

Lieutenant Cookesley of the 1st. Battalion of Artillery to join his Corps at Arnee without any delay whatever —

By order of the Honorable the Governor in Council / Signed / George Barry
Sub Secretary

By order of the Commander in Chief / Signed / R Turing
acting Deputy Adjutant General

R. O. By Colonel Smith 29th. May 1798. —

It having come to the knowledge of the Commanding Officer that some malevolent and ill disposed men of the Battalion made use of — malicious and wicked insinuations to upbraid some of the Evidences doubtless Conductor Clarke called to give Testimony before the late General Court Martial Colonel Smith hereby publishes his determination to punish with the — most rigid severity any man under his Command who shall be convicted of such unprincipled and unmilitary Conduct — he is well assured, — Characters of this description are but few in number in the Battalion but should he be able to detect by means of Serjeant Lyndeboul any — Persons so offending hereafter they may rely that no consideration will avail to mitigate the punishment their enormity may draw down upon them —" injured authority.

Service precludes the possibility of having the best of Europeans —

The only causes for the proceedings on the 15th January last amongst the men of the 1st Battalion as far as I can learn by enquiry was bad advice from men of other Corps — The white Jackets and the lateness of pay that Month 24th May 1798 —

My Dear Comrades

I think if you was to solicit with a genteel Petetion for me and beg of him and the other Officers to try with the Governor I think that I should have mercy shewn me yet — But dont think I am afraid to die; no — but to be hung in Chains Oh God, — If they would blow me away I would not care but I hope to shew this giddy world that as I boldly did I can bravely die — Thy Serjeant major Clarke; that's the man that falsely swore my life away but I — forgive him and hope God will do so. Pray never mention it to him as I forgive all men and I hope God will forgive me all yet and on Thurs= =day Evening I hope to rest in Jesus and with Angels in that state of — bless — Pray to God for my Soul and remember that my blood seals those rights you may loving Brothers now enjoy — I hope to — meet you all in heaven and I trust in God — if any one of you can send me a small Prayer Book I shall be obliged to you and send a Chit by the Boy to me with it and I am yours — in the Lord (Signed) William Stumbles —

Thus I believe will be the last Chit I shall send to you in this world — Adieu! — Adieu! —

Head Quarters of the army Choultry plain 28th. May 1798

The Honorable the Governor in Council having addressed the subjoined Orders to the Commander in Chief to be published to the army they are accordingly published in Military Orders —

Fort St. George G O By Government

Lieutenant Cookesley of the 1st. Battalion of Artillery to join his Corps at Arcot without any delay whatever —

By order of the Honorable the Governor in Council Signed George [illegible]
Sub Secretary

By order of the Commander in Chief Signed J R Fleming
Acting Deputy Adjutant General

R O By Colonel Smith 29th. May 1798 —

It having come to the knowledge of the Commanding Officer that some malevolent and ill disposed men of the Battalion made use of malicious and wicked insinuations to upbraid some of the Evidences Doubtless Conductor Clarke called to give Testimony before the late General Court Martial Colonel Smith hereby publishes his determination to punish with the most rigid severity any man under his Command who shall be convicted of such unprincipled and unmilitary Conduct — he is well assured Characters of this description are but few in number in the Battalion but should he be able to detect by means of Serjeant [illegible] Persons so offending hereafter they may rely that no [illegible] will operate to mitigate the punishment their crimes [illegible] draw down upon them [illegible]

and on other matters immediately regarding myself, I therefore request they may be indulged with the necessaries they stand in need of and detained until his Trial may be over — I have the honor to be with respect Honorable Sir &c. Signed Thomas Gils

St. Thomas's mount 26th May 1798.

Your Letter of the 6th respecting Colonel Smiths Orders of the 15th January astonished me a good deal — during the short stay under here I endeavoured to get an opportunity of shewing him your letter but being fearful of intruding myself — as he did not give me an occasion of entering upon the late transactions of the Corps I did not shew your letter — The order clearly proves to my mind a previous knowledge of the affair and Serjeant says that Colonel Smith said on the night of the 15th when a part of the Battalion first broke out — That he thought some thing would happen and staid at home for fear of it — He likewise corroborates what Lieutenant Cookesley says that Colonel Smith offered himself to them the men — That the 1st Battalion were led on (to the unfortunate steps they took) by other Corps he thinks was the case and that the 2d Battalion were willing as forward as them — The men being kept so long out of their pay on January last first occasioned their discontent — It is extraordinary and perhaps not generally known that on the 15th about half past eight o'clock at night when Colonel Smith made his appearance there were not 20 men out and Serjt. positively asserts that they were quieted and the

Arms of every man that had been out was put up in the Barracks and the whole retired – during the time he went to Colonel Saxons to send off a Man to inform you (Serjeant Jones) that when he returned there was a noise and the men took to their arms about Moblock – They drew some six pounders from the Park and placed them in front of the Barracks – surely an opportunity was left for Colonel Smith to have taken possession of the Guns &c by the 2 Battalion and Officers (of whom there were so many on the spot) and the 1st retired to their Barracks –

The question respecting the discipline of the 1st Battalion I – believe was put by General Ross – but not answered – I would have probably informed them that the standing Orders and Rules for carrying on discipline in the Battalions of Artillery was in my opinion equal to any Corps in the Service –

Although the Commanding Officer had generally shewn an aversion to corporal punishment I must still observe that if there was any defect in the discipline of the Corps it arose from the great proportion of unworthy characters among the men and I will venture to affirm that the Drafts we received from the infantry Corps in 1795 was sufficient to corrupt – twice the number we had – I must also include a few men re-inlisted from other Corps – respecting the foreigners I believe they are few in proportion to their Numbers bad men. – Without a general exertion throughout the Discipline of the best regulated Corps will decay, and unless we can have in the Artillery our choice of Men I mean from – Great Britain I fear we will be ever under the sad necessity of putting up with a set of Scamps – for the present mode of recruiting or procuring men for the Corps

Yours

was [illegible] and appeared frightened - said he knew nothing of
all that he knew he reported - but that he knew nothing of the Mutiney -
he recollected however and drinking in his Quarters and that the two
last nights that was drunk and sober - That he never heard of the
Mutiney until Serjeant Haydon of the 2nd Battalion told him at
6 Oclock at night of the 15th January that the Drums were beating
in the 1st Battalion Barracks - that he sent a Messenger immediately
to Colonel Smith Mr Charleton and Mr Fowler - he recollected nothing
in Orders of the 15th by Colonel Smith and was surprized at it - he could
not account for almost all the Officers in the 2 being in the Cantonment
when all the Officers of the 1st were at General Harris's - he saw a Card from
General Harris lying on Mr Charletons Table - Asked him if he did not
know of the discontents of the Men about their arrears - Jackets and
new hats - Yes - that every body know that - I told him no that I
believed not an Officer in the 1st knew it - he said he had not been at
Serjeant Grimstons house nor at any other house in the Patcherie for a
fortnight than Serjeant Major Goulds - that he never drank with
Banks nor ever had any thing to do with him but putting him on
the Barrack Guard sometimes - he recollected lending Rush three
pagodas

To Major General Gels - Sir - I am directed to acknowledge
the receipt of your Letter of the 23. instant

Having brought the subject of the Mutiny at St Thomas
Mount

Mount as far as it related to the Non Commissioned and Privates to its natural conclusion by the Sentence of a Court martial and having exhibited to the Army a most awful Example by the Execution of four Ring leaders the Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that justice and Policy require that the affair should pass into oblivion.

The Governor in Council thinks that the revival of a question which is to let loose the fears and apprehensions of so great a Body of men as the Coast Artillery is injurious to the discipline of the Army and to the interests of the state; on these grounds he is determined against any proceedings which may lead to a renewal of those disquisitions in the minds of the men which the publication of the Court martial ought to have finally appeased - and I am in consequence directed to inform you that he expects you will desist from encouraging all communications of this nature in future that may concern the non Commissioned and privates of the Corps of Artillery I have the honor to be Sir your most obedient humble Servant Signed J George Parry Sub Secretary.

Fort St. George 25th May 1798 -

The Honble Lieut. General Harris President in Council &c &c &c

Honble Sir - By a note from the Prisoners Lawrence and Connor I am given to understand they are deprived of every necessary and expect to be ordered away at a Short notice -

I take leave to acquaint you of this Honorable Sir and that these two Men are material Evidences against Conductor Clark

going on, and could not comprehend) at Colonel Smiths house it had acquired within the name of the whispering Gallery — But I will venture to affirm no one of them ever dreamt more than I did myself that Major General Sydenham made one of the party and I hope for his own sake and for the honor of the Service he may be able fully to acquit himself which can only in any mode be effected by an open declaration and attestation upon oath in Evidence before a General Court Martial of the precise purpose and intention of those secret meetings — Major General Sydenhams nomination to receive Reports and Returns of the Artillery in the Auditor Generals Office Colonel Smiths appointment to the Command of the Mount Lieutenant Saxon removed to Tricinopoly and Lieutenant Charletons succession to the Office of Brigade Major to the Corps of Artillery in preference to other Officers of Superior pretensions and particularly those of Captain Lieutenant Sir John Sinclair recommended by me does not lessen the suspicion that naturally attaches itself to meetings thus huddled up in the dark and the Evidence goes further to say, that they were not only guarded against wide approach and that they might not be known they came to and left Colonel Smiths house without lights.

I have the honor to be with respect Sir your most obedient and most humble Servant (Signed) Thomas Gells

St Thomas's Mount 20th May 1798.

To the Honorable Lieutenant General Harris President in Council and Commander in Chief &c &c &c

Board Sir, On Saturday last the 19th Instant Lieutenant Cookesley intimated

intimated to you at my desire that there was the most decided written Evidence in proof of Serjeant Major now Conductor Clarke not only having had a previous knowledge of the Mutiny before any overt act in the men but of his having encouraged it after the Mutiny had commenced and that I had submitted the circumstance to the Governor General in Council ---

I take the liberty Honble Sir of declaring to you in this Official manner that what Lieutenant Cookesley has stated as above is literally true and I do so from it having been just now stated to me by a non Commissioned Officer that M^r Conductor Clarke has it in contemplation to resign the Service and thereby avoid Trial and the consequent punishment due to such nefarious conduct - besides the discovery this Trial might lead to in my favor and probably that others in higher Stations than Conductor Clarke were not ignorant of or at least had strong grounds A suspicion that such a thing would take place, before the Mutiny has actually manifested itself - in the Corps of Artillery ---

I have the Honor to be with respect, Honble Sir your most obedient and most humble Servant/ Signed/ J. Guels

St. Thomass Mount 23 May 1798. ———

May 24th 1798 - I went to the Quarters of Conductor Clarke and told him I was come to him on a very serious occasion here he interrupted me and said he had heard of it two or three days ago [illegible] said I had Evidence to prove [illegible] before it broke out but that he was a[illegible]

ost re commander Vellum — that I had the written Evidence of many Men to prove that he not only knew of the Mutiny at the Mount before it had advanced to any open or avowed act, but had assisted and encouraged it when at its heighth, in every manner short of bearing Arms — so well — That he had long been an infamous character in the Cantonment and that such Conduct was no more than what ought to be expected from him — General Harris observed, it was very extraordinary — Why dont you bring him to a Court Martial? I replied that General Peels had reported it to Bengal — "Has he? says he (I thought with some surprize) — He must have been a Man of great address, to have deceived his Officers in such a manner, I said, I dare say it was no hard matter with him so to do. That it was a sort of fight he would fight, having studied it from his infancy for I understood that he was in the Army and bred up in it from a Drum Boy — General Harris said, after a pause of sometime — "Why the fellow will be hanged" — I soon after left him, and nothing more particular transpired —

His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Alured Clarke K C
President Governor in Council and Commander in Chief &c &c &c

Sir — I am again under the painful necessity of addressing your Excellency in Council and candidly to acknowledge, I feel more reluctance in doing so at this time from the circumstance I am about to state, than I experienced on any former occasion, where I have had the honor of addressing you, but as I feel I owe it to justice to the Service and to myself, that your Excellency in Council should not remain ignorant of any transaction

connected

connected with the late unfortunate mutiny of the Artillery when under my Command and as the Government under which I have the honor to serve and whom I had heretofore been taught to look up to for protection have not only been pleased to Censure and punish me without a hearing but to cut me off from all excepting a direct Appeal to your Excellency either as Governor General in Council or Commander in Chief in India — An appeal I humbly submit to be ascertained to every Soldier that may think himself aggrieved by his Superior Officer in the 9th Article of the Articles of War and which I hereby claim the benefit of as more consonant with my profession than any subsequent and ultimate appeal to the Honorable the Court of Directors or His Majesty's Court of Kings Bench as detailed in the last Section of the Preamble of the Mutiny Act — And I now proceed to acquaint your Excellency in as few words as possible; that it has this morning been stated to me by that Major General Sydenham held frequent private Meetings in Colonel Smiths house at the mount shortly anterior to the mutiny — That those Meetings were composed of General Sydenham himself Colonel Smith, Lieutenant Colonel Saxon Lieutenant Webber Stone and Lieutenant Charleton that as soon as they were assembled the Doors were shut and the windows darkened and Colonel Smiths Servant directed to deny him to all visitors and that the meeting continued some times from an early hour in the evening till after midnight — I suppose that Military men who are used to think and act correctly [illegible] that those of high rank and Station could be capable [illegible] anomalous fact that about this time from something mysterious [illegible] which the others were ordered to be

me whether Sergeant Major Clarke did mean Mr Charleton or Mr Heathcoat

Lord the 14th George May 1798

A true Copy from the original (Signed) R Lamb Mal T Battalion of Artillery

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Ordnance Office 18th May 1798 Extract

Major General Bridges appointed to the Staff under the Presidency

vice Geils. —

That on or about the 25th December 1797 General Sydenham came to Colonel Smiths about 9 O'Clock at night, who immediately sent his Orderly for Colonel Saxon, on Colonel Saxon's arrival — General Sydenham, Colonel Smith, Colonel Saxon Lieutenant Stone and Lieut.t Charleton shut up the Doors and Windows, and Colonel Smith gave positive Orders to his Servants, if any person called, to say they were not at Home; they continued in this Situation till about 12 o'Clock at night and says those Gentlemen had no lights with them either when they came to Colonel Smiths House or when they left it —

Says, that about the 1st of January 1798. General Sydenham came to Colonel Smiths House at 9 O'Clock at night, and Colonel Smith sent his Orderly for Colonel Saxon, who came immediately to Colonel Smiths Quarters — and General Sydenham, Colonel Smith, Colonel Saxon, Lieutenant Stone and Lieutenant Charleton were then shut up as on the former day and Colonel Smith gave positive orders to his Servants if any person called, to say, that Master was not

not at home — says they continued in this situation till midnight, and had no lights with them, either when they came or went away — Lastly says that on or about the 8th January 1798 — General Lydenham came to Colonel Smiths House, at 10 Clock at night, who immediately sent off his orderly for Colonel Saxon, and on his arrival at Colonel Smiths quarters — General Lydenham, Colonel Smith, Colnel Saxon, Lieutenant Stone and Lieutenant Charleton shut up the Doors and windows, and Colonel Smith gave positive Orders to his Servants, that if any person came to Call him, Master was not at home — they continued in this situation till midnight, when they broke up. —

Says, these Gentlemen brought no kind of light with them nor had they alight when they went away. —

The above account given by the. on the 14th May 1798 —

Saturday 19th May 1798 I waited on General Barris to make my excuse for the demands I had lately made on his indulgence in the way of leave, he observed I might stay as long as my Commanding Officer could spare me, in consideration of the uncertainty of General Geils remaining in this Country and the inclination he felt to be conducive to his accommodation. —

He lamented the necessity he had been under to adopt the measures he had with General Geils, but said such disagreeable duties must be now and then done. —

I told him some extraordinary circumstances had occurred lately at the Mount, upon his wish to know what they were, I said that Serjeant Major now Conductor Clarke, had proved himself a most

not at home — says they continued in this situation till midnight, and had no lights with them, either when they came or went away — Lastly says that on or about the 8th January 1798 — General Lydenham came to Colonel Smiths house at 10 Clock at night, who immediately sent off his orderly for Colonel Lacon, and on his arrival at Colonel Smiths quarters — General Lydenham, Colonel Smith, Colonel Lacon, Lieutenant Stone and Lieutenant Charleton shut up the Doors and windows, and Colonel Smith gave positive Orders to his Servants, that if any person came to talk with him, Master was not at home — they continued in this situation till midnight, when they broke up. —

Says, these Gentlemen brought no kind of light with them nor had they alight when they went away. —

The above account given by the on the 19th May 1798 —

Saturday 19th May 1798 — I waited on General Harris to make my excuse for the demands I had lately made on his indulgence in the way of leave; he observed I might stay as long as my Commanding Officer could spare me, in consideration of the uncertainty of General Geils remaining in this country and the inclination he felt to be conducive to his accommodation.

He lamented the necessity he had been under to adopt the measures he had with General Geils but said such disagreeable duties must be now and then done. —

I told him some extraordinary circumstances had occured lately at the Mount, upon his wish to know what they were, I said that Serjeant Major now Conductor Clarke, had proved himself a most

immediately replied, that a quarrel was coming on that day,
and I believed he was to prosecute him, but he declared he did not
know any thing concerning of and he had more to say
in his behalf than against him — We walked on till we came to the
Horse Tops, where we all agreed to dress, before we came into the
Field when Serjeant Major Clarke acquainted me, that he was very
sorry for what had passed — I asked him what he meant and he
Serjeant Major Clarke acquainted me, that he was a man as well as
another though he was Serjeant Major — that he would draw his sword
against any Scoundrel, that would say but what the 1st and 2d Battalions
had done right, I immediately replied, I dare say that you would,
and was as ready to fall in as any man that was there, when he
answered that he was — and by the following expression that he made
that Jew as I termed to mention was that Colonel Gals (as he named
him) was an old Rascal, and my own Commanding Officer is no better,
meaning Colonel Smith — I said to him that for Colonel Smith, I knew
nothing about him but what I had learnt, that General Gals
was a Soldier and a Soldiers Friend, and desired him not to go
too far with his rigs, meaning not to speak against General
Gals — I have likewise to declare that Stumbles sent —
Serjeant Langdon a Letter in which was specified, that
Serjeant Major Clarke of the 2d Battalion —
had taken a false Oath and sworn his life away. —

(Signed)

I A St George
4th day 7br

I further declare that I heard Serjeant Major Clarke say, that if he was about half drunk, that he would fall on and join the 1st Battalion. how this was on the morning of the 16th (Signed)

do declare, that I heard Serjeant Major Clarke say, that if he had two drams more, that he would lead the Party himself — And I further do declare that he said, he was very happy that it was happened as it was; that they ought to have done it before — Sometime before the 15th January, I heards Serjeant Major Clarke say, that it was impossible for any private Centinal to bear the usage they met with from General Gale — and that he General Gale, was unworthy of the Command of the Artillery This passed in Serjeant Glimstone's house where he was Drinking —

14th May 1798 — (Signed)

A true Copy from the Original R. Lamb

I Matross in the 1st Battalion Artillery Declare that on the night of the 15th January I was with the Battalion, when alarmed by the Drum beating to Arms when I went to the Arm Rank there was only one Firelock in it — I joined the Battalion without accoutrements or ammunition — They marched to the 2d Battalion Barracks — some of the 2d Battalion joined immediately Lieutenant Charleton and Hathway came then — Lieutenant Charleton and take every second man and put him in the Main Guard, the word was scarce expir- when Serjeant Major Clarke said, that's right knock him down; I do not

know

of Orders Kennedy —

The Order is continued to some length on the Subject of Non Commissioned Officers associating improperly with the Men — The mode of punishing the Liquor and ordering the 1st payment of the then present Month's Salary, to be stopped that Evening —

I have the Honor to be with respect Sir Your most obedient and most humble Servant (Signed) Thomas Gells

Fort St. Thomas Mount 10th May 1798

I was with Serjeant Major Clarke on the 11th January 1798 in the afternoon walking, I pointed out to him (Serjeant Major Clarke) that the Soldiers were determined to break open the Bazar, if they did not get their arrears of Pay, and that the 1st was more in arrears than the 2nd I likewise told him that I was afraid something worse was on foot, if they did not shake off the white Jackets and straw hats — and was in the Serjeant Majors Quarters, and heard what I said the reply the Serjeant Major made, was, they are much in the right, not to suffer themselves to be imposed upon — I then told Serjeant Major Clarke, he was no great things for striking them the other day — Clarke then denied striking him, opening his breast at the same time, saying, I know myself to be a Soldier, if you think otherwise, run me through, several words ensued & took away them as before, and Serjeant Major Clarke, in consequence of a mutiny but he met him Serjeant Major and dare not be seen on it — or else I would encourage to make ones. to standup for our rights — God bless the boys, is my wish please my Sentiment Enclosed to the care of Lieut Gillis Fort Saint George

I

Matross on the 1st Battalion of Artillery Declare, that on the night of the 15th January, I heard Serjeant Major Clark of the 2d Battalion ask of the 1st Battalion, if he would have the old Guard to turn - said by all means, I dont want to take it from you, then Serjeant Major Clarke said, are you going to relieve me with the new Guard made answer, I do not want to command either by words, then Serjeant Major Clarke said, success to you my Boys.—

These to the best of my recollection are the words that passed between Serjeant Major Clarke and —

(Signed) his + mark

} Witnesses

We declare that what has been said concerning Serjeant Major Clarke, we will take our oath to be the same

(Signed) {

Matross on the 1st Battalion of Artillery do declare that and my self, were sent to Madras by an Order from Government, for what purpose it was unknown to either him or me We was escorted by a Corporal of Captain Isaacks Company, and as we walked through the Avenue towards Madras, we came to a Toddy House in which there was Serjeant Major Clarke and Lindley of the 2d Battalion, Serjeant Major Clarke asked me and likewise and the Corporal, what we were going to Madras concerning, when I acquainted him it was unknown to me and I believe it was unknown to those men that was with me he left Major Clarke immediately

cession that it must have been known a day or two before in the Cantonment from a circumstance that I am told was stated by a man of His Majesty's 69th Regiment that on coming to the banks of the River near the Mount was warned by some Artillery Men not to proceed further, as disturbances were likely to ensue in the Cantonment and perhaps it may appear strange, but it is recollected that every Officer of the 1st Battalion that was able to were absent from the Mount at a Ball given by the Commander in Chief and that Colonel Smith with his Adjutant Lieutenant Charlton, Major Handcastle, Captains Tanner and Darke, Lieutenants Hathorn, Russell, Grant, Cragie and Simond of the 2d Battalion were the Officers who remained in the Cantonment on the night of the 15th Lieutenant Stone does not returning from the Commander in Chiefs and as if conscious of the knowledge he had of the extent of what was going forwards in the Cantonments, quitted his conveyance at the Choultry on the Madras Road and proceeded by a Bye path into the Cantonment and through the Paddy Fields, as it is said And what may still appear more extraordinary than all the rest, Colonel Smith did not go near the Men, tho' present on the spot, for near an hour and an half after the mutiny commenced, and after the Drums of the Cantonments had repeatedly beat to Arms, and then, as the Men still persisted in the mutiny, instead of attempting to restore them to order, he desired they would make him prisoner, that he would become an Hostage and passed his word and honor their grievances should be redressed and no one punished

I call upon the Commander in Chief, General Harris, particularly to turn those circumstances in his mind, and comparing them with the apologies and time of the apologies sent by Colonel Smith and the other Gentlemen, for not attending his Ball and subsequent recommendation and by whom of Serjeant Major Clarke, for his Services; and if then a doubt should shoot across his mind, or that it does not amount to more than a presumptive proof of the Mutiny at the Mount being previously known or at least suspected by Colonel Smith and his Staff, that he will read a Regimental Order, issued by that Officer on Monday the 15th January (Vig) the day of the Mutiny, and which by the merest accident in the world, came to my knowledge only the 5th of this month.

"N. B. It is to be observed as a Rule, from which any deviation in future, will be severely punished, that no light whatever is to be used in "the Companies of the Battalion after 8 O'Clock at night, unless authorized "for any particular point of duty, that may require it, and when necessity "of using any light occurs, the same is to be reported to the Serjeant "of the day immediately, who will take care only to allow a light to be "used when the reason appears sufficient for so doing. Should there in "the course of the night, any improper noise or disturbance take place "in any of the Companies, which cannot be immediately put a stop to in "the Company, the non Commissioned Officers present are either to report at the "time to the Serjeant of the day, or if any difficulty should arise of finding "him, then next morning, that the offenders may be taken notice of, and any "Non Commissioned Officer, neglecting to make such report, even tho' the person caus-"ing such disturbances may be a superior he shall be punished for disobedience

"of

certain that it must have been known a day or two before in the Cantonment from a circumstance that I am told was stated by a man of His Majesty's [illegible]th Regiment that on coming to the banks of the River near the Mount he was warned by some Artillery Men not to proceed further as disturbances were likely to ensue in the Cantonment and perhaps it may appear strange [illegible] it is recollected that every Officer of the 1st Battalion that was able to were absent from the Mount at a Ball given by the Commander in [illegible] and that Colonel Smith with his Adjutant Lieutenant Charleton Major Handeville, Captains Tanner and Darke, Lieutenants Hathway, Russell, Grant, Cragie and Limond of the 2d Battalion were the Officers who remained in the Cantonment on the night of the 15th Lieutenant Stone was returning from the Commander in Chiefs and as of conscious of the knowledge he had of the extent of what was going forward in the Cantonments, quitted his conveyance at the Chaultry on the Madras Road and proceeded by a Bye path into the Cantonment and through the Paddy Fields as it is said And what may still appear more extraordinary than all the rest, Colonel Smith did not go near the Men tho' present on the spot, for near an hour and an half after the Mutiny commenced and after the Drums of the Cantonments had repeatedly beat to Arms and then, as the Men still persisted in the mutiny, in the room of attempting to restore them to order, he desired they would make him prisoner, that he would become an Hostage, and passed his word and honor their grievances should be redressed and no one punished

I call upon the Commander in Chief, General Harris, particularly to turn those circumstances in his mind, and comparing them with the apology and time of the apologies sent by Colonel Smith and the other Gentlemen, for not attending his Ball and subsequent recommendation and by whom of Serjeant Major Clarke, for his Services, and if then a doubt should shoot across his mind, or that it does not amount to more than a presumptive proof of the Meeting at the Mount being previously known or at least suspected by Colonel Smith and his Staff, that he will read a Regimental Order, issued by that Officer on Monday the 15th January (Yesterday) the day of the Mutiny, and which by the merest accident in the world, came to my knowledge only the 5th of this month.

"R. O. It is to be observed as a Rule, from which any deviation in "future, will be severely punished, that no light whatever is to be used in "the Companies of the Battalion after 9 O'Clock at night, unless authorized "for any particular point of duty, that may require it, and when notice "of using any light occurs, the same is to be reported to the Serjeant "of the day immediately, who will take care only to allow a light to be "used when the reason appears sufficient for so doing. Should there in "the course of the night, any improper noise or disturbance take place "in any of the Companies, which cannot be immediately put a stop to in "the Company the non Commissioned Officers present are either to report at "times to the Serjeant of the day, or if any difficulty should arise of finding "him, then next morning, that the offenders may be taken notice of, and any "Non Commissioned Officer, neglecting to make such report even the the person "doing such disturbances may be a superior he shall be punished for disobedience

"of

notified with the Conduct of the prisoners in the Barrack Guard are not wishing to avail themselves of any Disturbance but desirous entirely on him is pleased to release them, without any further notice of the past, and the men in general may be assured they never shall be disappointed in any dependance they place on him and what is passed shall be buried in oblivion

The Lascars confined in the Guard, to be also released—

The Commanding Officer dispences with the white Jackets and Straw Hats — and that the Arrack be drawn in the Barracks as directed in Cantonment Orders.

His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Alured Clark K.B.
President in Council &c &c &c

Sir — Permit me once more to approach your Excellency in Council, on a subject of I mistake not, in which the Honor of the Service is as much concerned as mine can possibly be and which will be adding some more links to the chain of proofs, that Government if not the Board of Officers have been imposed upon, and that the recommendation of Serjeant Major Clarke to be a Conductor of Stores may appear hereafter as a reward procured for him that he might not be necessary in bringing forward some greater delinquents if possible than himself.

I have been at considerable pains to discover the cause for the honorable mention, made in Government Orders of Captain Tanner, Lieutenants Hathway, Charleton and Fowler, and in the course of those enquiries, it does appear that Captain Tanner had great merit, the merit of having offered the assistance of his Company ready paraded, to

Colonel

Colonel Smith who refused accepting it, and by doing so secured to himself it is true, the Command of the Fort, but in all probability he let the opportunity escape by which tranquility and order might have been restored without difficulty, and omitting Lieutenant Hathway of the other three Gentlemen, and even his Lowness are problematical, it does not appear that either of the other two mentd such motive, one of them Lieutenant Charlton made a great noise, and the other Lieutenant Fowler, rode Captain Darke's Horses half way to General Harris's, to tell me from Colonel Smith, what I had known an hour before, from Serjeant Jones of the 1st Battalion of Artillery, dispatched to me, by Lieutenant Fire worker, Cookesley In regard to Serjeant Major now Conductor Clarke, I am sorry to say, that besides his being a man of general bad character, it is a fact that there is every reason to suppose he knew of the Mutiny before it commenced, and did or did not report it as may appear hereafter. That when the 2nd Battalion were reported to him by Serjeant Flury to be getting under Arms on the morning of the 16th he took no steps to prevent it, and on a subsequent occasion, wished success to a party that were preparing to rescue Clarke, Banks and Rumbles ordered prisoners to Fort St. George, in short he comes on my humble opinion, compleatly under the 4th Article of the 2nd Section of the Articles of War, and on which I hereby formally charge him, and hope it may not appear in the course of Mr. Conductor Clarkes Trial that others in higher stations were likewise acquainted with the Mutiny previous to its commencement, one thing is

certain

G.O. By Government 1st May 1798-

The Honorable the Governor in Council avails himself of the earliest opportunity of marking his approbation of the meritorious Conduct of Lieutenant and Adjutant Charleton of the 2d Battalion of Artillery, on the night of the 15th January last, as pleased to appoint him Brigade Major of the Artillery vice Gale resigned-

To Lieut. Fireworker James Gellie of the 1st Battalion of Artillery

Sir, — I am directed by the Honorable the President in Council to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 21st Ultimo and to acquaint you, that trusting in the sincerity of your contrition and that your future Conduct will render you deserving of his Clemency, he is pleased to remove the Bar placed on your 2d Promotion in the General Orders of the 13th Ultimo-

The President in Council permits you to proceed to Bengal on Leave for three Months-

I am &c. &c./ Signed/ J. Webbe Secretary to Government

Fort St. George 2d May 1798-

Mount 15th January 1798- R.O By Colonel Smith-

"It is to be observed, as a rule, from which any deviation in future will be severely punished- That no light whatever is to be used in the Companies of the Battalion, after 8 o'clock at night, unless authorized for any particular point of duty that may require it; and when necessity of using any light occurs, the same is to be reported to the Sergeant-

of

of the day immediately, who will take care only to allow a light to be used when the reason appears sufficient for so doing — Should there in the course of the night any improper noise or disturbance take place in any of the Companies, which cannot be immediately put a stop to in the Company, the Non Commissioned Officers present are either to report at the time to the Serjeant of the day or if any difficulty should arise of finding him, then next morning, that the offenders may be taken notice of and any Non: Commissioned Officer neglecting to make such report, even though the person causing such disturbance may be a superior he shall be punished for disobedience of Orders himself."—

That part of the standing Orders so expressly prohibiting any familiar intercourse between the Non: Commissioned Officers and the men; Colonel Smith calls the attention of the latter to and he shall certainly consider any Non: Commissioned Officer who shall hereafter be found drinking, gambling or otherwise improperly associating with them as unworthy to be continued in his station."—

" There being reason to believe &c. &c. &c.

" The first payment for the present month to be issued to the Europeans this Evening, and the Lascars tomorrow morning &c. &c. &c."—

R. O. 2nd Battalion

The Commanding Officer Colonel Smith, being highly gratified

" your Excellency in Council may perceive from the paper No. 38 / which
" Copy of Mr. Secretary Hobbes Letter and which accompanied the Papers
" already submitted to your Excellency in Council and which were by her
" returned to me. —

I humbly trust that from the Documents I have presumed to
submit to the consideration of your Excellency in Council it will
appear that my only aim in my correspondence with Government
has been to obtain Common justice — To know the particular charges
that have been preferred against me and by whom they were preferred,
that I might if there be allowed the privilege granted to every British
subject the privilege of being heard in my Defence. And it is to
attain this I now humbly entreat the protection of your Excellency in
Council. I neither ask nor desire favour or any thing more than
common justice and however much my fortune may be injured it
is for my character as an Officer, I am alone anxious — it is the
stain that has been given my reputation a soldier in the dark,
that distracts my mind. If under your indulgence I may be
permitted to re-establish my Character and Reputation,
I can do so fully and effectually — If that indulgence be
granted me, I shall hasten to retire from the Service, a Service in
which there appears to be a fixed and determined resolution
to drive me from and in which I have spent Sixty two —
of the best years of my life - to enjoy the pension my
Rank holds out to me at home — A pension I trust
no arbitrary proceeding can deprive me of, and where I shall
have

" your Excellency in Council may perceive from the paper No. 38. which is a Copy of Mr. Secretary Hobbes Letter and which accompanied the Papers already submitted to your Excellency in Council and which were by him returned to me.—

I humbly trust that from the Documents I have presumed to submit to the consideration of your Excellency in Council it will appear that my only aim in my correspondence with Government has been to obtain Common justice — To know the particular charges that have been preferred against me and by whom they were preferred, that I might then be allowed the privilege granted to every British subject the privilege of being heard in my Defence. And it is to obtain this I now humbly entreat the protection of your Excellency in Council. I neither ask nor desire a favor or any thing more than common justice, and however much my fortune may be injured it is for my character as an Officer, I am alone Anxious — it is the stain that has been given my reputation as a soldier in the dark that distracts my mind. If under your indulgence I may be permitted to re-establish my Character and Reputation, I can do so fully and effectually — If that indulgence be granted me, I shall hasten to retire from the Service — A Service in which there appears to be a firm and determined resolution to drive me from and in which I have spent thirty two — of the best years of my life — to enjoy the Promotion my Rank holds out to me at home — A promotion I trust no arbitrary proceeding can deprive me of, and while I shall hav

have an opportunity to hold me up as another Example to the World -
- That whenever a Government sounds the alarm of injured Authority - the
cry of apprehension on the part of the strong against the weak - of power
against an individual - it may be looked upon as only the prelude
to some grand injustice - for never was there so strong a measure as the
Suspension, of an Officer from the Service without pressing something
of an indefinite nature, that shall mean every thing, or nothing
or nothing, as best serts the purpose of those who use it, as an apology
for having done so - no picture can be more disgustful - no
state more depressing, than that of an Officer of high and
distinguished rank, held in obedience by the mere operation of
fear, in which all that are most eminent and that should
give Example to the rest are prevented under the severest
penalties - and their Subalterns from expressing their
Sentiments, on matters of duty, or of forming Sentiments worthy
to be expressed -

I fear I may be irregular, in thus addressing you - but
but peculiar situations cannot have the advantage of precedent -
nor the aid of rules to guide it - and if I should have erred from
ignorance I trust I may stand excused with your goodness -

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of respect.

Your Excellency's most obedient and most
humble Servant -

/ Signed / Thomas Gates

St. Thomas's mount
30th April 1798 -

my application met with a denial — Thus deprived of a benefit which I humbly conceive to be my right, and every prospect of knowing the accusations against me, or name of my accusers — I was precipitated into a situation at once the most painful and the most embarrassing to the only alternative left me — I addressed Government with a statement of facts, and introduced a Letter of the 18th February, to me from nineteen out of twenty eight Officers, who were present and Eye witnesses of my Conduct during the mutiny in addition and which I am persuaded would have been signed by the whole, had the Idea ever been started on the 16th January, or any period previous to the order of censure passed on me by Government — No. 1 is a Copy of my Address, dated the 13th March and which I conceived would have had some weight, and pleaded so far in my favor with Government as to procure for me the Proceedings and Report of the Board of Officers, which I again entreated but to add to my distress this Address was considered obnoxious, on learning this fact, I wrote twice on the same day, namely the 21st March, on the Honorable the Governor, and entreated that the part or parts of it, that were regarded as improper, might be cancelled, and on his signifying that the whole was improper — I begged permission to withdraw the whole But after waiting a considerable time without learning the pleasure of Government on the subject, and despairing of success in any respect whatever, I begged to resign my appointment as a General Officer upon the Staff, preparatory to my wish of visiting Great Britain which

which I had determined on, I however it was afterwards suggested to me that by
approaching your Excellency in Council, I might obtain the justice that I might
be due to my Cause, that in the event of my determining so to do, it would
be the better way that every thing should remain in statuquo — and that it
would therefore be necessary I should withdraw my application of Resig-
nation of the Staff, and I did so — Offering to Government the reasons
that induced the measures of appealing to your Excellency in Council and
eventually to a General Court Martial — The very next day with the
appeal before Government and with an intimation a week before on
the 6th instant, that I considered a Court martial inevitable to
my great affliction, Orders were issued by which I was struck off
the Staff of the Army and suspended the Service, until the pleasure
of the Company should be known — I will not intrude upon
your time to speak of the Anguish I had almost said indignation
I suffered in consequence of this unjust and unexpected event — To —
discribe it were impossible — I immediately addressed Government
upon this occasion and No. 37 is the Copy of my Letter, flattering —
myself with the hope that after they had proceeded to the utmost
extremities against me they would yet allow me an appeal to your
Excellency in Council and that the Honorable the Court of Directors
might thereby be satisfied, I had not relinquished my rights
nor quitted India where my services might be wanted, until
I had first sought redress through every legal and regular
Channel in the Country — but in this also I have been disappointed,

a°

variety of torture, to protect my honor and every thing dear to me in life, against the effects of calumny and Detraction, and to expose the designs of those who have been actuated by malice towards me, or whose interest it is to effect my ruin.

I presume to address your Excellency in Council with a view of obtaining that I am fully persuaded your liberality and justice will readily — Hold me — The knowledge of what has been urged against me, that I may be heard in my defence and that I may receive the redress I may appear entitled to — For these last three years my destruction has been meditated by men whom I am unconscious of having ingured or have provoked either by words or by my actions — About three years ago they framed a number of unfounded Charges against me, and I was tried on them by a Court Martial before which, every — means that the most determined malice could suggest were pursued and all the slander that inveterate resentment was capable of producing, was brought forward against me, For that time my Enemies failed in the success they had promised themselves — and I was honorably acquitted — But although defeated, they still cherished the hope that they might ultimately crush me, and the unfortunate Mutiny of the Artillery that took place at this mount on the 13th January last, offered it would seem a favorable opportunity to carry their diabolical purposes into Execution — A Board of Officers composed chiefly of the staff of the Army — Men who never sat at Courts martial and consequently are not Ld. eligible to sit on Courts of Enquiry was ordered — to

to investigate the cause of that Mutiny, and they assembled accordingly —
Proceeding on the object recommended to their attention they examined
separately and apart such Officers belonging to the Artillery and such only
as they thought proper to call before them — I objected to their mode
of proceeding and submitted, that as they were desirous of obtaining the
Truth - the most efficacious mode to be adopted for that purpose,
would be to allow every Officer to be present, so that defects in the recollection
of particular individuals might be rectified — That I did not desire
to be present myself, but that it was my anxious wish Colonels Smith
and Saxon, and such other Officers as could be conveniently spared, might
attend during the time of my Examination — But this Idea was —
rejected — The Board having closed their proceedings, they were forwarded
together with a report on them to Government and the Order of the
16th February was issued in consequence, by which the command that had
been conferred on me, by the Court of Directors, was taken from me and
I was condemned unheard, and in total ignorance, and I remain so to
this hour of the crime that has been objected against me, and of the
persons by whose Testimony it had been supported — A proceeding
incompatible with the British Laws — And I submit to your
superior judgement and long experience, unknown in the usage
and customs of the Army -

Perfectly convinced in my own mind of my innocence and anxious to
detect and refute the misrepresentations on which Government had —
grounded their decision — I applied for a Copy of the
proceedings and report of the Board of Officers — but —

mu

the 2d Battalion Barracks – he then told me I was a good fellow – he then asked me if I would have him as much as would mount the new Guard – I then told him that I would, he joined in asking me if it would the old Guard – I agreed to that – But by no means did Major Clarke did not encourage or advise to do it – the – time which the Prince was going forward – on foot – this my own Words –

He see me in the 2d Battalion Barracks and asked me if you'll let me have the new Guard, – yes Sir I will, after then he said me – – , will you let me have the old Guard, Sir – when Sir told they are relieved you can have them – and then if they don't join us after they are relieved we will be obliged to send for them if they don't join us, he then returned me thanks and withdrew – Sir, yours &c.

mark –

says that a day or two past 12 or 1 before the first mutiny happened, he was with Sergeant Major Clarke in his orderly room and , that the conversation turned on Straw hats and Jackets remarked it was hard, to which Clarke agreed mentioned the intention of the People, to wait that Evening to receive their Arrears / 1st Battalion much more in Arrears / if any was paid, and if it was not, to meet and storm the Barracks, to which Clarke observed, they would do any right but he could not blame them so to do –

Major

Major General Gels — Sunday 29th April 1798 —

Sir, I am directed by Lord Mornington to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 27th instant, and to inform you, that as you have stated the Subject of it to be under reference to the Supreme Council and to the Commander in Chief in India, and eventually likely to be submitted to a General Court Martial, he does not think proper to enter into any consideration of it, during his continuance at this Presidency — He would have returned this answer to your Son, whom you stated to be the bearer of your Letter, but upon enquiry he found that the Letter had been left at this House, and that no person waited for an answer —

I have the honor to be Sir, your most obedient Humble Servant — (Signed) Henry Wellesley —

To His Excellency Lieut. General Sir Alured Clarke &c &c.
President in Council &c &c &c.

Sir, I had the honor to address you on the 22d instant accompanied by certain papers which I perceive by Mr. Secretary Webbs Letter had already been in part submitted to your Excellency in Council and which I shall soon have the honor to present to you in &c Duplicate —

Under the pressure of an assemblage of the most extraordinary Circumstances and Events, and with feelings agonized by a

Anxiety

were your Lordship at present to receive unfavorable impressions on a matter that I trust will be fairly before you on your Arrival at Calcutta — should you my Lord, however, have a wish to peruse any part of the business at this time, My son who has lately resigned the Company's Service and has the honor of being the bearer of this Letter to your Lordship, has a Duplicate of the correspondence in his hands and is ready to answer such questions as your Lordship may put to him; and to assure your Lordship that the whole is the effect of a Party, long leagued and craftily constituted, which General Harris has not yet seen through — In assuring your Lordship of this, and that I did my duty to the utmost of my power on the unfortunate occasion — A supposed failure in which was the first pretence for the Censure and for receiving and forwarding an Address to Government from Nineteen, out of eight and twenty Officers present, accusing me of having merited this the second, or cause assigned for my Suspension thereby preventing me from availing myself of so honorable a Testimony. As Government had come to a previous hasty and contrary resolution — A resolution I submit to your Lordship, both oppressive and unjust and tending to deprive an Officer of every means of defence and pre-judging his Cause by punishing him without form of Trial —

I have the honor to be, My Lord, with every sentiment of respect your Lordships most obedient and most humble Servant (Signed) Thomas Goddard

St. Thomas's Mount 27th April 1798

Of the following I can make oath, Viz^t on the day of the last supposed mutiny, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon I was in Company with the late Sergeant Major Clarke, and told him what was on foot, his reply was that he would willingly forfeit his life for the general good of the men, There was a man of the name of , was in Company with Sergeant Major Clarke at the same time, on the same Evening I had my sword drawn in my hand, seeing Sergeant Major Clarke and with another Sergeant of the same Battalion in Company with him, I called him (Clarke late Sergeant Major) on one side so that the other should not hear what passed — the other Sergeant went in front, and then I informed him Sergeant Major Clarke, of what was going forward — Sergeant Major Clarke told me, - God bless you my Boy, do all you can for the good of us poor fellows — Damn the big Wigs — I am going on fair pease out of the town, and depend upon it I will not molest any of you, on the contrary, I will forward every thing — but dont mention my name —

(Signed)

The following is my publick and serious declaration, which I hope may be useful to the Community in general —

On the morning of the first business of the supposed Mutiny, I am on oath, between God and the holy Evangelist, that Sergeant Major Clarke to the best of my belief, knew that a mutiny would ensue — Reasons for such were these, that at the time of my going from the 1st Barracks to the 2d Battalion he asked me where I was going — I told him I was going to —

the.

to be reversed -

In regard of the Officers Letter to me I can only say that Letter was shewn by me to General Harris on his saying such a Letter was in every body's mouth and he then observed, he saw no harm in it but he thought it would do me no good" - I replied that the Testimony of even as many Lascars affirming my Conduct, would have weight at a General Court Martial and that those Gentlemen who signed the Letter were ready to come forward and declare on oath, every syllable they had with all submission to Government offered therein - I asked General Harris what I was to do - He said "To remain quiet and let the business blow over" I replied - Gracious God! can you, Sir, lay your hand as a Military Man on your heart, and tell me to do such a thing? - Do you mean to pension me on the Staff, for surely you can never employ me again - he said, he would employ me, that I took things in a wrong light - I replied by God Sir, I would not employ you or any Man, under such circumstances, and the next thing I should expect upon Lord Hobarts reaching England, would be an order to suspend me the Service, if I did not rather prefer having my Conduct submitted to the decision of a General Court Martial -

I beg a thousand pardons for this intrusion, and that you will believe me with every respect your Excellency's obedient and most humble Servant - Signed / Thos. Geils

Ste Thomas's Mount 22d. April 1798 -

Head

"Head Quarters Choultry Plain 24th. April 1798.

G. O. By the Commander in Chief -

Monthly Returns of the Artillery and of the Field and Garrison Ordnances at the different Stations to be made to Major General Sydenham" / Military Auditor General / until further Orders — / Signed / R. Turing acting D. Deputy Adjutant Genera

414.

The Right Honorable Earl Mornington.

My Lord -

I take the liberty of approaching your Lordship by Letter, as from the present circumstances of my situation of being under the displeasure of Government, I cannot persuade myself of the propriety of paying my personal respects to entreat your Lordship, whenever the subject of the mutiny of the Artillery when under my Command may be mentioned, and which I am certain it will be, with every circumstance / so far as it regards me / of exaggeration. That your Lordship will be pleased to receive the report with your known liberality, as coming from one side only from a party who having had address sufficient to endince Government to adopt the strong measure of suspending me from the Service, until the pleasure of the Court of Directors shall be known, will not hesitate in justification of so illegal and oppressive an act to favor the belief, by every means their malice can invent and that has already had a temporary prevalence in this settlement, of its being fully warranted by the occasion - But my Lord, as I have been tried in a corner and stabbed in the dark, and to this moment I am totally ignorant of the crime that has been alledged, or the hand by which the Weapon is now against my honor has been directed, and as the whole subject is referred to the supreme Government and Commander in Chief in India, and eventually to be submitted to a General Court Martial, I need not tell your Lordship how injurious it may be to me, and prejudicial to my final,

were

the indulgent lenity of Government will lead them to overlook it. I have the honor to be &c. (Signed) James Gellie.

(The above letter was brought back to Mr Gellie by Captain Malcolm at General Harris the Governors desire, whom he said, had too great a regard for Mr Gellie, to allow of its being put upon record, who in the room of apologizing for his former address, seemed to imply a confirmation of his sentiments, of not a further disrespect to Government who were determined to punish General Gells, and were no longer a Government when they stooped to reason with individuals, on any act of theirs. &c. &c. and Mr Gellie was induced to give in the following Letter—

The Honorable Lieutenant General Harris, Governor and President in Council &c. &c. &c.—

Honorable Sir— It is with the most sincere sorrow that I observed by the Orders of the 13th instant, I had fallen so severely under the displeasure of Government—

I assure you Honble Sir I never meant the smallest disrespect to that Government under which I serve, and if I have from inexperience inadvertently offended, I trust the indulgent lenity of Government will induce them to overlook it— I have the honor to be— &c. &c. Signed James Gellie Lieut Fire worker 1st Battalion of Artillery

Fort St George
21 April 1798

43

His Excellency Lieut-General Sir Alured Clarke K. B.
&c. &c. Governor in Council &c. &c. &c.—

Sir I have received by the accompanying Papers that I have attempted every thing within the compass of my ability to convince this Government that I had done my duty on the unfortunate occasion of the Mutiny to the utmost of my power and am sorry to find that my zeal to serve has been misconstrued by a General—

I must

Court Martial, that my objection to this last alternative, in addition to what is stated in the Correspondence, was, that Major General Prath- -ware would in all probability have been President, and Captain Leith Judge advocate, both of which Gentlemen I had before experienced as highly inimical to me — General Harris it is true, upon my offering this to his Consideration said you may object to them, but my objections, he allowed at the same time might be over-ruled —

I beg your Excellency's particular attention to the proceedings and report of the Board of officers — I am so far satisfied in my own mind, of the propriety of my Conduct, that I can hardly — allow myself to think there could be any one so far lost to every sense of truth and honor, as to advance a Syllable to my prejudice on the occasion of the Mutiny, if there should it would seem but fair, they should be brought forward, to prove what they have asserted, before a General Court Martial and that I should not in this manner be stabbed in the Dark, without knowing — the hand that committed the foul or Deed —

I submit the whole to your Excellency's justice and trust, for the sake of the army, an immediate stop may be put to this mode of suspending Officers from the Service, that is, of punishing them without Trial, and eventually depriving them of the means of — ever again retrieving their reputation — I can only suppose that in even this proceeding might be defended, as for instance there it would be allowable without form of Trial, to put a man to death — on the spot, but as nothing so desperate I trust will appear warranted by any part of my Conduct, the measure itself as it stands might appear unjustifiable

of the Circumstances and Motives which alone induced me to sign an address to Major General Geils (a Copy of which you were pleased to send me) has failed in satisfying Government of the purity and rectitude of my intentions towards them – Indeed I am almost led to apprehend the possibility of my Letter having by some means or other miscarried and beg leave to say that I never once entertained an Idea bordering on disrespect or want of duty towards Government. I trust this declaration will be sufficient to convince them that that part of my Conduct which has merited their displeasure proceeded merely from inadvertence – may I beg that you will lose no time in laying this before the Honorable the President in Council, if it is so fortunately to influence him in my behalf, the least delay may be of consequence to me –

I have the honor to be &c. &c. (Signed) John Noble

Listnaghorry 19th. April 1798 –

To Major General Geils

Sir – I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter dated the 15th. instant and to acquaint you that the Honble the Lt. Governor in Council cannot depart from the regular and established usage of the Service by transmitting your appeal to the Supreme Government – For your satisfaction however, I am directed to add, that all the Proceedings of Government upon your subject including their correspondence with you from the Commencement of the mutiny at St Thomas's Mount to your Suspension from the Service have already been submitted to the Governor General in Council.

your

your Address to the Supreme Government is there[illegible] again returned to you - I have the honor to be, Sir, your most humble Servant (Signed) J. Webbe
Fort St. George 18th April 1798 - Secretary to Government

Y. C. By Government 18th April 1798 -

Lieutenant R. L. Fowler appointed Quarter Master of the 1st Battalion of Artillery at the particular recommendation of the Commander in Chief; and the Governor in Council is happy in this early opportunity of marking his approbation of that Officers meritorious Conduct on the night of the 15th January last -

42.

The Honorable Lieutenant General Harris, Governor and President in Council - &c &c &c -

Honorable Sir - Being called upon by Mr. Secretary Webbe, to give in my motives for signing the Address to Major General Gaile, I without hesitation or reserve, gave the true, the only motive that induced me to do so -

It was with extreme regret I observed by the Orders of the 16th instant that I had by my Candid expressions fallen so severely under the displeasure of Government - I have declared in my Letter to Mr. Secretary Webbe that I never in the most distant degree meant disrespect to the Government under which I serve, and I take this opportunity of again repeating that nothing could have been further from my thoughts then to have given them the slightest offence - If Honble Sir, I have from inexperience inadvertently and unwillingly offended, I trust I do

the

I prayed your Honor in Council that I might be suffered to withdraw it but this indulgence was also refused me, and as the only alternative left I solicited your Honor in Council to forward the Papers that had relation to me to the Commander in Chief in India and for that purpose used the liberty to send all those that were in my possession. Submitting to your Honor in Council that I referred myself and my cause to His Excellency's decision and eventually to the decision of a Court Martial — shortly afterwards my papers were returned with a Letter from Mr. Secretary Webbe, signifying that he had resolved not to forward them to Bengal, and the reason why the Order of Suspension was issued.

Thus, Sir, has every attempt I have made to vindicate myself to my Government and to my Honble Employers and to obtain a knowledge of the matters that appeared against me on the Proceedings and Report of the Board of Officers for the sole purpose of asserting and establishing my innocence been frustrated and turned against me. Had I been furnished with the Accusations as detailed in those Proceedings and that report and been allowed a hearing in my own right secured to the most attrocious criminals — I might have regretted the Sentence pronounced on me, but I never should have believed the Subject.

If your Honor in Council would have now proceeded to the utmost extent of its intentions and sentenced me I humbly trust your Honor in Council will allow me an application to be made to the Commander in Chief in India — and believing that this application I take the liberty to trouble you again with the enclosed papers and request that they may be forwarded together with this Letter to his Excellency — I have the honor to be with respect Honble Sir your most obedient and most humble Servant. (Signed) Thos. Geils.

St. Thomas's Mount 15th. April 1798.

Flaxman.

Having understood that a Report having been raised prejudicial to the Character of Thomas Geals late Commander of the Honorable Companys Coast Artillery saying, the People which were Executed on the 15th. March 1798 accused him Thos Geals of being the cause of their death, through lenity granted to the Artillery - We do hereby declare such report to be absolutely false, on the contrary, as no Person or Persons can be better judges of every thing that passed then we that was to share the same fate, what was said thro' the whole, we solemnly declare, was certainly on the behalf of Thomas Geals, Major General, namely, by saying we were entirely sorry that General Geals was so much censured, as we thought he did not deserve it -

(Signed) James Lawrence
James Bonner his + mark

They make oath that they were in the fullest confidence of Stumbles, Clarke, Banks and Foster, just previous to the time of their unfortunate Execution, and that they communicated freely with each other - And those Deponents further Say - they have heard reports of a very extraordinary nature, as coming from the deceased, greatly to the prejudice of General Geals are in circulation - and they therefore declare that as the unhappy sufferers lived, so they died in the highest Sentiments of gratitude and Esteem for General Geals, believing him to be the Soldier's friend -

J. Webbe Esquire &c. &c. &c.

Sir, Having just perused the orders of Government of the 13th. instant, I take the earliest opportunity of expressing my extreme regret that the Letter which I had the honor of addressing to you some time ago, and which contained an explanation of

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41

The Honorable Lieut. General Harris, President in Council and Commander in Chief -

Honorable Sir, In the course of my life I have experienced a variety of distressing occurrences, by which my mind has been greatly harrassed and [illegible] but the Events on which I now presume to address your Honor [illegible] are singularly severe and the painful effect they have [illegible] on my feelings must not be descended -

had received Mr. Secretary Webbes Letter returning the Address [illegible] and necessary to submit to the Supreme Government the right [illegible] late in the afternoon of yesterday I was told that Government [illegible] was pleased to suspend me the Company's Service - a Service [illegible] I have acted with advantage to my Honorable Employers [illegible] uninterruptedly during a period of nearly Thirty two years - I immediately sent for an Orderly Book and found what it confirmation [illegible] of the intelligence I had received, and that Government had been [illegible] Cause to arraign my suspension by the strongest animadversion [illegible] on my Conduct so that I am now held up to the Army not only as an [illegible] to deter, but as a subject deserving the abhorrence of all Military [illegible] - in spite of conscious innocence and the firm persuasion of the rectitude of my [illegible] my only support in a crisis so very trying, and yet I hope [illegible] I may ultimately be enabled to do away the impressions that [illegible] have been received to my prejudice and to the injury of my Honor [illegible] character as a Soldier and as a Man -

[illegible] Honor in Council may be pleased to recollect that the orders by [illegible] I was condemned for not doing my Duty, to suppress the unfortunate [illegible] y at the mount and for by which as a punishment for my offence I was [illegible] deprived of my Command originated in the proceedings of a Board of Officers,

that

that I entreated Government to furnish me with a Copy of those proceedings, to the end that I might have an opportunity of defending myself, and that Government was pleased to reject such my entreaty. I was therefore left in a total ignorance of what had been urged against me, and utterly destitute of the means of detecting, and exposing the unfounded accusations that had been advanced by my Enemies — Upon this circumstance I approached your Honor in Council with a statement of such facts, as I conceived amounted to a justification of my Conduct, and rested in the humble hope they would have been accepted as such by Government — A constituent part of those facts was an Address to me from a part of the Officers of Artillery which I then imagined might have been of some benefit to my Cause, but which I since find has been regarded as mutinous — Here I beg permission to assure your Honor in Council, that when that address was in agitation, and when I submitted it to your inspection I imagined it to be perfectly correct in its principle, and that as tending to aid the purposes of justice it was highly meritorious, and to the truth of this assertion I appeal to almighty God — I never could have supposed that the testimony of Officers under my Command in support of the propriety of my proceedings in the discharge of my Duty as witnessed by themselves, could have borne the construction that has been attached to it — If I had, I would rather suffer death than given it either my countenance or sanction, but, Sir, the moment I learnt that my Letter to your Honor in Council was obnoxious, I made an application to have the objectionable passages expunged, and on being informed by you Sir, that the whole was objectionable,

exalted, no pretensions however splendid can shelter an individual
from the just indignation of injured authority —

The Governor in Council has already published his resolutions
that Major General Geils did not make those Exertions which it was
his duty to have made for the suppression of the Mutiny at
the last Mount, and is now concerned to add that that Officer
has been so little restrained by a sense of his duty or respect for
the authority under which he acted, as to receive countenance and
transmit to Government Copy of a mutilated Address from a part
of the Officers of Artillery, contradicting those Resolutions and justify
ing himself. Major General Geils from the censure deliberately passed
upon his Conduct in the General Orders of the 16th. February last
so flagrant a perversion of his immediate duty as Commandant
of Artillery and so manifest a disregard of the relation in which
he stands to Government itself as an Officer of the staff has not failed
to call down on Major General Geils the heaviest animadversion of the
Governor in Council, and Major General Geils is therefore hereby removed
from the Staff of the Army and suspended from the Company's Service,
until the pleasure of the Court of Directors shall be known —

The Governor in Council has observed with much Concern the facility with
which the Officers above alluded to have suffered themselves to be precipitated
into measures so subversive in its principle of Order and Subordination, no
consideration however of the youth and inexperience of the greatest part of
them at the [illegible] termination and example and of the contrition with which
they profess for their misconduct the Governor in
Council passes it over without further notice — Captains —
Campbell

Campbell, Jordan and Darke, Captain Lieutenant Sinclair and —
Lieutenants Grant, Hathway and Russell, have not the same excuse, —
although the Governor in Council has been so far satisfied with the —
explanation which they have given and Captain Campbell in particular
of the circumstances and motives by which they were induced to sign the
Address, that to refrain from any rigorous measures against them, yet
he thinks it necessary to publish this his disapprobation of their Conduct
and to warn those Officers, that he expects more prudence and
circumspection in matters so essential as respect and obedience to the
authority of Government —.

As Lieutenant Fireworkers Noble and Gelbe, have not availed them-
selves of the indulgence and opportunity offered them of repentance of their
inconsiderate rashness — The Governor in Council in order to impress
it more fully on their minds with recommend to the Court of
that they be passed over in their promotion, until Government
satisfied that they have imbibed ideas of order and subordination due
those by which they have been induced to sign an Address, in
to an order from Government —

Lieutenants Thomas and Andrew Geals permitted
the Honorable Companys Service at their own request

By order of the Honorable the Governor in

(Signed) J Webbe Secy

By order of the Commander in Chief. Signed) By
Adjutant General of the Army —

The

and direct it in like manner, to the Commander in Chief in India
I have the honor to be - Honble Sir, your most obedient and most
humble servant - /Signed/ Thomas Geils
Ft Thomas Mount 12th April 1798

Delivered by General Geils to Major Gardener at the Admiralty
at 11 o'Clock on Thursday the 12th of April - before he went to the Ld
Military Board -

38.

His Excellency Lieut. General Sir Alured Clarke Kn. B.
President in Council &c. &c. &c. Fort William

Sir, I have the honor of submitting to your Excellency in Ld
Council certain papers on the Subject of the late mutiny of the Artillery
Men Regt, to which I trust the Commander in Chief here will subjoin
such further lights on the subject, as he may have subsequently been able
to obtain, with his opinion at length thereon to which I am ready -
have the most implicit obedience and respect, and if, Sir, they Ld
should not carry conviction to your mind, that I did my duty on that
fortunate occasion to the utmost of my power in the narrowed
way I was obliged to act, and that I alone in the least possible
time, quelled the Mutiny under every disadvantage by the -
circumstances I present - I have therefore request you will be pleased to direct my
being furnished with a Copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Officers and
of a General Court Martial to enquire into my Conduct on the Ld
occasion, and particularly whether I did or did Ld
not make those Exertions which it was Ld

my

"my duty to have made for the purpose of enforcing the authority
"and executing that trust which was confided to me, as Commanding
"Officer of St. Thomas's Mount, and Commandant of Artillery &c as ——
states in the Censure.

I have the honor to be Sir &c. (Signed) S. Geils.

St. Thomas's Mount 12th April 1798.

39

To Major General Geils — Sir, — I am directed by the Honble the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter dated the 12th instant, and to inform you that he does not deem it necessary to make the reference which you request to the supreme Government, your address to the Governor general in Council with its enclosure is therefore herewith returned to you by order of the Governor in Council.

I am Sir, your most obedient Servant. (Signed) J. Webbe
Secretary to Government

(Signed) Compared J. Malpas

Fort St. George 13th April 1798.

Received by a Peon at 7 o'clock in the Evening of the 13th instant

40

G. O. By Government —

The Honorable the Governor General in Council need not spar the army of the reluctance, which he will always feel, when the duties of his Station compel him to exercise the authority of government, in punishing an officer, but it is at the same time of importance to announce, that no Rank however exalted

57.

I James Stuart Hall Notary Publick duly admitted and sworn dwelling and practising in Fort St George — Do certify that I have carefully compared the foregoing Copy with the Original and do find the same to be a true Copy thereof — The passages marked in red ink being struck out in the original Document — In Faith and Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of my Office in Fort St George aforesaid this thirty first day of march in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and ninety eight -

Signed James Stuart Hall Notary Publick

35.

To Major Gardiner Secretary to the Commander in Chief.

Dear Major -

However desirous I have been and may still be from a variety of considerations to avoid a General Court martial, I imagine it is inevitable and with this impression on my mind every thing looking to that event is in readiness for transmission to the Commander in Chief in India. I feel it therefore a duty to suggest to you my hopes that the General will be particularly guarded that I may not be a sufferer from the construction of others drawn from circumstances that were never meant to bear them — I write this to you in confidence and I flatter myself that neither you nor General Harris will be displeased with a suggestion that arises out of the best possible motive.

I am Dear Major — yours faithfully Signed T. Geels

Mount C.t April 1798 -

Major

36

Major General Geils Mount

Dear General — I have this instant received your Note of to day, and will take the earliest opportunity of communicating the Contents to General Harris — I am Dear General yours obediently

Fort St. George 6th April 1798 /Signed/ John Gardiner

37

The Honble Lieutenant General Harris President in Council &c &c.

Sir — I have the honor to entreat you will be pleased to lay the accompanying Packet together with the proceedings // // of the Board of Officers of which major General Ross was President, before His Excellency the Commander in Chief in India, with such further lights as may have presented themselves, subsequently to your notice on the unfortunate subject in question, for which I shall esteem myself obliged, and having now come to the resolution of submitting myself and cause to His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Alured Clarke, the Commander in Chief in India, and eventually from his decision, to that of a General Court Martial — I have to entreat I may be permitted to withdraw the request contained in my Letter of the 25th Ultimo of resigning my appointment as a General Officer on the Staff, until His Excellency's pleasure shall be known —

I have presumed to address you in Council and the Commander in Chief in India in the same manner, with a view of its coming fully before my honble Employers from their records in Council —— If I should not be perfectly correct in this mode of Address, I beg you to receive it as Commander in Chief only —

and

233.

The Honorable Lieutenant General Harris President in Council &c &c &c.

Honorable Sir, In consequence of Mr Secretary Webbe's Letter
covering the original Letter addressed to me by the Officers of Artillery, might
be regarded to Government, and as I cannot lay my hands immediately on
the original Letter, I have the honor to transmit an attested Copy thereof,
to which I pledge my honor to its being perfectly correct, and an
exact counterpart of the one I had the honor some time ago of submitting
to you when I mentioned to you Sir the circumstance of Captain
Empson and Lieutenant Grant, wishing to withdraw their Names —

Government will please to notice that those parts written
in red ink, are what have been altered and the interlineation in
common ink, was substituted in its room, this alteration was made
to accommodate the Letter to Lieutenant Colonel Shaw's Ideas, of what
would be more respectful to Government, but after all and after in
a manner disfiguring the Address, he declined signing it, although
he declared in the presence of several of the Gentlemen, that it
perfectly accorded with his sentiments

I have the honor to be, Honorable Sir,
your most obedient and most humble
Servant (signed) Thomas Gels

Fort Thomas Mount
2 June 1782.—

To

To Major General Gaits — Sir — We the undersigned Officers of the Corps under your Command take the earliest opportunity of expressing to you our extreme concern at the ____ Censure passed upon your Conduct _____ on occasion of the late unfortunate Mutiny among the men of this Cantonment, and as we were generally eye Witnesses thereto and cannot well be mistaken in what passed before us — We humbly presume _____ there may have been _____ a misrepresentation _____ of facts, as there appeared to us no part of your Conduct, we humbly apprehend, on that occasion that could have merited the slightest Censure.

The Mutiny took place in your absence and we deem it a justice to declare, that we believe and did observe you to have made use of every Exertion, which it was your duty to have made for the purpose of inforcing authority and executing the trust confided in you to the utmost of your power, and in a manly and Officer-like manner, and such as we believe very few, and certainly no Officer in this Cantonment could have brought matters under all the circumstances of the case to so favorable an issue — /Signed/

J. Dennistone Browne
J. Sinclair
Thomas Corbesley
J. Campbell
Peter Grant
P. G. Blair
J. Noble
Thos Gaits
Andrew Gaits
J. Hathway Lieut 2d Batt. Artly.
C. W.m Cragie Lieut & A.M. 2d Batt Artly
Richard Darke Capt. Artly.
Wm Kingsley Lieut & Worker
A. Weldon Lieut & Worker
J. Jordan Capt 2d Batt Artly
J. Russell
Alex. Limond acting Lt & Worker
R. Taylor
James Gellie Lieut & Worker

St Thomas Mount 18th February 1798.

To J. Wilkie Esq. &c. &c.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of 1st Instant, calling upon me for an Explanation of the circumstances and motives of conduct under which I was induced to sign the address to Major General Gells of which you have been pleased to enclose me a Copy — In reply to which I beg leave to inform you, that the only motive that induced me to sign the address was, the high sense I entertained of the propriety of General Gells's conduct during the muting, being fully convinced that General Gells had made use of his most active Exertions, and utmost Endeavors to enforce subordination on the night of the 15th of January and being convinced from my own personal knowledge, that it was him and him alone that did actually quell the Muting on the Morning of the 16th; how could I then in justice to General Gells, and my own conscience, refuse signing the address? Indeed I was surprized that all the Officers of the Corps were not actuated by the same Sentiments I should be very sorry however if any of the Expressions contained in the Letter could be construed into disrespect to Government, those which nothing could have been further from my thoughts — They were such as my feelings dictated, in regarding the character to whom they were addressed, and if inadvertently and unthinkingly I may have given offence to Government, I entreat forgiveness —

I have the honor to be Sir &c.

Signed James Gillie

Madras 27th March 1798 —

The

The Honorable Lieutenant General Harris &c. &c. &c. Commander in Chief

Honorable Sir,

In consequence of the Appointment of Major of Brigade to the Corps of Artillery becoming vacant, by the resignation of Brigade Major Gels, I beg leave to recommend to you, in the most emphatic manner, Captain Lieut. Sir John Sinclair Baronet an Officer I formerly had the honor of naming to you as having uniformly deserved well of the Service and every way qualified to fill that Office

I have the honor to be, Honorable Sir, your obedient and faithful humble Servant (Signed) Thomas Gels Major Gen.l and Commandant of Artillery.

Fort St George
28th March 1798

To Major General Gels

Sir, The Officers who appeared to have signed an address to you transmitted in your Letter of the 23d Instant, having been called upon for an Explanation of the circumstances under which they did so — have stated some of them that the Copy of the Address differs from the Original and others that the original itself was interlined and corrected in many places. I am therefore directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council, to call upon you for the Original Address — I have the honor to be Sir your most Obedient humble Servant (Signed) J Webbe Secy to Government.

Fort St George 30th March 1798

country, but who is now from wounds and misfortunes not himself—

I have the honor to be &c. (Signed) Richard Darke

24th March 1798

Copied from a Letter of Captain Darkes own hand writing (Robert Lamb)—

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To Honorable Lieutenant General Harris President in Council &c. &c. &c.

Honorable Sir,

Having tried every means within the compass of my —
ity to do myself justice by attempting to do away the Censure on my
ind regarding the late unfortunate meeting at the Mount. short of
commanding a General Court Martial, the fatigue, and anxiety, of which I have
already suggested to you Sir, both verbally and in writing, neither my
health nor frame of mind would enable me at this time to Support — I
have therefore to request you will be pleased to accept of my Resignation
of the appointment which you Sir, honored me with as Major General
on the Staff.—

I have further to solicit your attention and favorable
acceptance of the two Accompanying Addresses from the Commissary of Stores
at the Mount, and Major of Brigade to the Artillery Corps to resign
the service of the Honorable Company.—

I have the honor to be Sir your very Obedient Servant

(Signed) Thomas Culs

Mount 25th March 1798—

To the Honorable Lieutenant General Harris President Governor in Council
&c. &c. &c. Fort St. George

Honorable Sir, Permit me to request you will do me the favor

to

to accept of the resignation of my appointment as Commissary of Stores at the Mount and of my Commission as Lieutenant of Artillery in the Honorable Company's Service

I have the honor to be, Honorable Sir, with all due respect your Obedient humble Servant (Signed) Andrew Geils 1st Artillery

Mount 25th March 1798

The Honorable Lieutenant General Harris President in Council &c. &c. &c.

Honorable Sir, — Permit me to request you will do me the favor to accept of my resignation of my Commission as Major of Brigade to the Corps of Artillery, and of my Commission as Lieutenant of Artillery in the Honorable Company's Service —

I have the honor to be Honorable Sir your very obedient [illegible]

(Signed) Thomas Geils Lieut. of Artillery

Mount 25th March 1798

To J. Webbe Esquire &c. &c. &c.

Sir, I have been honored by your Letter of the 21st of March, desiring of me an explanation of the circumstances and Motives of Conduct which induced me to sign the Letter which you have pleased to send me a Copy. To this I have to reply that the sentiments contained in the Letter were such, as from a knowledge of circumstances, my feelings fully authorized, which added to my respect for General Geils as an Officer, was the sole motive that led me to affix my Signature to the address, however, I did not suppose it was to have been laid before Government, to whom I hope it has not appeared improper — I have the honor to be &c. (Signed) John Nobbs

Bristow Derry March 1798

and that you will be informed of his resolutions upon it hereafter

I have the honor to be Sir, your most obedient humble Servant.

(signed) J. Webbe Secretary to Government.

(Endd) F. Fulton Esq.

To J. Webbe (Esquire) Secretary to Government

Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 21st Inst. inclosing a Copy of an Address to Major General Geils from a part of the Officers of Artillery, and to which my Signature appears to have been affixed, and which your Letter acquaints me has been by him laid before the Honorable the Governor in Council; in reply, I beg leave to state that I did sign an address to Major General Geils myself, as well as several other Officers, were induced to believe that Major General Geils wished the Officers to affix their Signatures to a paper expressing our approbation of his exertions for the suppression of the late Mutiny, solely for the gratification of his own private feelings; and that no other use was to be made of it — The Copy forwarded to me, is by no means the same as the paper to which I affixed my name — the following Paragraph in particular, I am confident was not on it — "the meeting took place in your absence, and we deem it &c &c (see No)

I am an Englishman, I love my Country, and respect its Government, I consider it better calculated for the protection of the individual and his property, than any one in the known world, and the child of misfortune

almost

almost from my Cradle, and frequently suffering under misrepresentation, have ever endeavoured as far as lay in my power, as an obscure individual to give it every stability and support. — My present situation from being in arrest, and confined to the same limits of the Cantonment as the private Soldier, prevents my coming forward and speaking for myself but if Government will be pleased to allow me to come before them, and will demand from Major General Gells the identical Letter to which my name is affixed, I have not the smallest doubt, but that I shall be enabled to give before them a full, a true, and a satisfactory Explanation upon the Subject. —

I am, Sir, your Obedient Servant (Signed) H. Vasse
Captain Artillery

Mount 23d March 1798 —

J. Webbe Esquire Secretary to Government —

Sir When I addressed you on the 22d Instant, I had not been able to procure a sight of the original Letter of which you sent me a Copy, and my mind has long been in a state of the utmost distraction, occasioned by reflections on my very unhappy Situation, so that I have fallen into an error, as I have since seen the original Letter and find it verbatim with the Copy what can I say Sir, further than to beg you will have the goodness to offer my humble apologies to Government for my mistake and intreat their forgiveness with permission to with draw my Letter. I throw myself on their benevolence and hope they will extend it towards a man, who has been Zealous and Active and fought and bled in the Services of his Country

d is the custom of the Army. — It is prejudging and predetermining on the conduct of an Officer, before a Crime has been preferred against him. in Officer who is not before you; it is striking at his rights and privileges as sanctioned by an act of the Legislature and eventually depriving him of that fair and impartial trial by his Peers, which every subject entitled to. — I therefore enter this as a protest against every part of your proceeding in which my conduct may be attempted to be — impeached. —

With the utmost reliance on your Candor, and that you will put an immediate stop to every unfair and illegal proceeding, the moment you discover it. —

I have the honor to Subscribe myself Gentlemen
your most obedient and most humble Servant
(Signed) Thomas Geils

Head Quarters 15th July 1795

Government House 15th March 1798 (Extract)

His Commander in Chief has been pleased to recommend Sergeant James Clarke of the 5th Battalion of Artillery to be promoted to the Station of Conductor of Stores in consideration of the propriety of his Conduct on the 15th and 16th January last

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His Right Honorable Lieutenant General Harris President in Council

&c. &c. &c.

Honorable Sirs,

On a mature consideration of my Letter of the 13th Instant,

and its enclosures, I am led to conclude that I have acted with ill advised precipitancy in forwarding it to Government, I am extremely sorry that I have done so and request as a favor that I may be permitted to with draw it. I have the honor to be, Honorable Sir, your faithful and most obedient humble Servant —

(Signed) Thomas Geils

Fort St. George
21st March 1798.

23

Lieutenant Hathway — Lieutenant 2nd Battalion of Artillery

Sir, I am directed to acquaint you that Major General Geils has laid before the Honorable the Governor in Council an address to him from a part of the Officers of Artillery to which your signature appears to be affixed and of which I enclose a Copy, I am therefore directed to call upon you for an explanation of the circumstances and motives of conduct under which you were induced to sign that paper —

I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant.
(Signed) J Webbe Secretary to Government

Fort St. George 21st March 1798 —

24

To Major General Geils — Fort St. George 22d March 1798 —

Sir In answer to your Letter of the 21st Instant I am directed to acquaint you that the Governor in Council cannot consent to your withdrawing your Address of the 13th Instant — but

placed on higher situations, and been as active in bringing them forward for the investigation of their Conduct, as I have been on my endeavors to prevent harsh measures, and the distress to individual feelings, that must of consequence followed — had I caught at Error and culpability as they presented themselves and followed them up by Arrests and Court Martial I should not at this moment have been under the necessity of approaching you, on one of the most painful incidents in life — My indulgence — my lenity have been abused, by the [illegible] of both; and the proceedings of my Court Martial will evince that the Officer, who does not render himself the object of [illegible] with those under his Command, may be liable to all those [illegible] that wicked Men resort to, for the purpose of promoting the views of [illegible]

Suffer me once more, Sir, to revert to the subject [illegible] the Artillery, and in doing so to say, that the 1st Battalion [illegible] innocent compared with the 2d Battalion — In that Battalion the Mutiny commenced, and some of the Men in that Battalion were the instigators and afterwards the leaders of it — And I have [illegible] on my honor I believe the circumstance may be fully proved. If these Men are to suffer by Corps, and that the Artillery must be separated, I humbly trust, that Corps will suffer most which is the most guilty — This I can from the fullest experience say that the 2d Battalion as Military Men, is by no means equal [illegible] orderly as the first; and that it has been a source of trouble and

vexation to me from the mament it joined me at the Mount.

I have the honor to be Sir your most obedient, and a Most humble Servant (Signed) Thomas Geals.

St Thomas's Mount
13th March 1795.—

20

The 1st Battalion of Artillery feeling themselves aggrieved in many Circumstances, do hereby declare that they will not agree to receive any pay &c. until they can find themselves treated on the same terms as every Corps in India has an undoubted right to be.—

They cannot possibly consent to receive pay on any other terms, than on the 1st of the Month, and to have their Arrack drawn in the Barracks— nor will they agree to be stopped for any superfluous Jackets— They likewise expect a Bazar free from any Tribute which have of late greatly distressed the Battalion.—

To Lieutenant Colonels Sale, Majors Burr and Vigors.—

Gentlemen.

It appears to me by your mode of proceeding that there is an intention to enter into an investigation of my Conduct, and that under the pretence of enquiring into the irregularities and riotous behaviour of three private Artillery Lascars it is meant and intended to criminate me by proceeding that is illegal and unconstitutional, contrary to the Laws of England and

... of defence left me I should shrink from it with disdain; yet I hope in that I may be allowed to draw those conclusions from the ... exist –

But Sir I hold ~~of~~ an honorable Certificate of my Conduct on the day of the Mutiny from those who were present and had the ... opportunity of observing it – It is a full approval of every ... and is signed by nineteen Officers – I beg permission to enclose it for your inspection and humbly trust Sir that ~~if~~ you will yet extend your goodness and your justice towards me so that I may be able to vindicate myself in the fullest manner and conscious as I am of the rectitude of my actions, and the zeal I have ever shewn, and ever shall profess for the good of the Service and ... especially the Corps with which I have for a series of years had the honor to act, and with which I have acted upon trying occasions when by determined perseverance and the noblest ardor that ever glowed in the breast of man they have acquired the brightest fame, and rendered to their Country Services that never will be forgot.

Mr Secretary Webbe observes that the whole subject is referred to the consideration of the Court of Directors – Unless I may be permitted to know what has been stated against me and to oppose that Statement by such proofs and fair and liberal arguments as may be in my power, the Court of

Directors

Directors will have only one side of the question before them, and, Sir, I have reason to be convinced, that my Honorable Employers would be from desiring to consider a subject evidently injurious to the character of a Servant, without hearing that Servant in his defence, and I am persuaded, Sir, that such an Idea must be highly obnoxious to your Sentements — Suffer me therefore once more to entreat your indulgence, so far, as to grant me a Copy of the Papers alluded to, or at least permission to peruse them —

With respect to the distribution made of the Artillery, by General Orders — I shall not further presume to speak, than to submit to your superior judgement, that the well being of an Army depends on the Artillery, and that the Discipline of the Artillery depends upon their being as much as possible in a collected Body — Such were the opinions of Lord Cornwallis, and I believe every Military entertains the same. I am attached to the Corps by the strong ties, that bind Man to Man, and I feel for the disgrace that has fallen on the first Battalion, as published in General Orders, with the liveliest sorrow and regret; indeed I know no circumstance, that in its occurrence, could have impressed me with deeper affliction — I have been accused of too much lenity towards the men, however on a restrospective view of my conduct I find the accusation unjust, but I freely confess I have been too lenient to those with whom the accusation originates — Had I exercised my authority with a severer hand than I have done, over those,

Hand

hear me and not until I told them I would insist on being heard and that I was come to learn their final resolution previous to my reporting them to Head Quarters They then recitated their grievances and insisted upon having them redressed - I made use of such reasoning with them as I judged to be the best calculated for the time and when I found that they were determined and conceiving there was not a moment to be lost granted them what they required namely respecting the Bazar the mode of serving their drams The 2 issue of pay - The undress Jackets which Colonel Smith and Jason had ordered them to provide / on condition that they would return to their duty and in future behave themselves as good Soldiers -

Having thus introduced the most material particulars regarding the Conduct of Colonel Smith and myself - it remains for me to make some remarks on his situation and proceedings so far as they apply to or are connected with my own Colonel Smith was on the spot when the Mutiny in the 1st Battalion began and if the 2 Battalion had actually as they are represented in a state of Subordination and obedience to their Officers and so many of them present he might easily it is presumed have restored discipline but so far from attempting to do so - it would appear that the moment the People of the 1st Battalion made their complaints to him he promised redress and gave his honor that no man should be punished - Therefore the discontent amongst the men I had to encounter every thing that was inimical to my wishes and efforts - They had been promised by Col. Smith

& compliance, with all the had asked in the most unequivocal and
& unqualified terms, and it is not to be supposed they would give up
to any efforts of mine in their combined state an advantage that had
been ceded and secured to them at the very beginning of the mutiny
an advantage that had embraced every object they had in view to - Nor
was I enabled to act from circumstances as I did not know of any such
such concession on the part of Colonel Smith until the mutiny was
finally quelled — Thus then did the proceedings of Colonel Smith operate
to defeat my own and surround me with difficulties which I neither
knew nor suspected and which I found to be of a nature not to be
obviated or surmounted and when at length the second Battalion
had joined the 1st, possibly to the end, of not pre-concerted, that the one
might acquire the same benefits, that the other had obtained, when
instead of tranquility, and a certain degree of Order every thing was —
confusion and outrage in both Battalions and when for the purpose of —
averting the dreadful storm that appeared to be gathering very fast;
and all those calamities that might have followed it. — Acting according
to the best of my judgement, and to the narrowed line prescribed
by the concessions, and promises just mentioned, I granted the
request of the People and in doing so, I did no more in fact
than give my concurrence to a measure that had been carried
into execution by Colonel Smith — I do not mean to justify
my Conduct by recrimination, on the contrary were such the only

ten O'clock at night he asked the people (who formed a Circle round him) what they wanted and what were the grievances they had to complain of and was told that Mr. Cookesley had a paper that contained them the Paper was then delevered to Colonel Smith and he called for a light to read it but as some person exclaimed no light — he retired to the Guard room and returning soon afterwards observed to the Men that if such were their grievances they should be redressed in the morning and pledged his honor to the performance of his promise, that one man could not, and not punished? — to which Colonel Smith replied — not if I can help it — but that qualified assurance proveing unsatisfactory Colonel Smith added "I pledge my honor that none shall be punished, nor hurt —" in consequence of which the Men retired.

Finding therefore on entering the Cantonments, which to the best of my recollection was about 12 o'clock, that every thing was quiet although I understood from Colonel Smith and other Officers that the men had got seven or eight Guns drawn up, and that they could not be prevailed on to return them to the lines — I deemed it most advisable to defer going among them, and I believe Sir I wrote you to that effect until day light, when I might be able to see and know their countenances as I imagined that would be very favorable to the object I had in view, to bring them back to their duty with a just sense of the crime they had been guilty of, in committing so flagrant a breach of

it — However at the entreaty of some Gentlemen I was afterwards induced to go to the Barracks in the front of which I found them with guns — drawn up, I addressed them as particularized in the accompanying — narrative and as therein is stated combated what they called their — grievances — I did so a second time in the morning and then gave them an hour to consider of their behaviour with an assurance that if they did not return to their duty in that time I would report — them to the Commander in Chief — before that time expired the 2. Battalion had joined the 1st. and then and not till then, there was every appearance of decidedly violent intentions — They took possession of the Magazine detached a party to the top of the Mount and to the Barracks of the 2. Battalion drew off more Guns and made every disposition for their defence — Captain Malcolm who came to the Cantonments from the Commander in Chief saw a part of their Outrages and I suggested to him the expediency of immediate Coertion — He left me about 8 o'Clock and almost — immediately afterwards a white pendant was hoisted by the Party on the Top of the Mount they at the same time fired three — signal Guns and applied the Tellescope they had with them — alternately towards Madras and Poonamallee —

As things had now assumed a very serious aspect — and to prevent alarming consequences I immediately proceed. ed to the Barracks where the Men surrounded me and it was with some difficulty that I persuaded them to —

hear

proper and your private Letter of the 20th. January is not only a pledge to m
of your goodness but that you were mistaken yourself in supposing the e
nquiry would be confined to the origin of the mutiny - finding out the
authors and to know how far steps were taken for quelling it previous to
my return from your house - When however the Board met and when I
in consequence of a Summons appeared before it - I offered reasons why the
Officers of Artillery ought to be examined in the presence of each other and
every examination taken as publickly as possible I remarked that I did not
desire to be present at any examination myself yet that when my own
Narrative was to come forward it was my wish Colonels Smith and Swan
and as many other Officers of the Corps as could conveniently attend might
hear me deliver it in order that they might set me right if I should
have misconceived or forgot facts necessary to be perfectly understood
and fully detailed but my reasons and wishes were rejected and as
far as possible they may not appear on the proceedings and as the Board
of Officers would not receive all that I stated before it I entreat your a-
ttention to the accompanying narration (N2) as taken from the
notes I then made use of - and if on the proceedings of the
Board of Officers it should appear that a considerable difference
has been made in speaking of the part the two Battalions took in
the Muting and that the 2 was persuaded by the 1st to resist their Duty
and become Mutinous - I humbly trust the paper in reference will

demonstrate

demonstrate that such was not the case if it should be required I imagine from the information I have lately received I can adduce ample proofs that the mutiny originated with the 2 Battalion and it is indisputable that the leaders of the mutinous men were belonging to it It is far from my disposition to make those distinctions but I am led to believe others have done so upon erroneous principles I consider that I am acting correctly and only rendering what is due to justice when I endeavour to rectify mistakes

Proceeding as I do altogether uninformed of what may have been alledged against me on the proceedings of the Board of Officers I trust I shall obtain the indulgence of Government if I should meet particular points that may most essentially effect me.

The General Orders that arises out of those proceedings is my only guide and consulting them and holding subsequent occurrences in my mind I must suppose that previous to my return to the Mount on the night on which the much to be lamented misfortune in question occurred Colonel Smith who commanded during my absence did all that was incumbent on him to do and that I did not follow up the measures he had so properly commenced It becomes me therefore to state the measures pursued by Colonel Smith and I do so from information given me by Lieutenant Simond an Officer who I believe was not called upon by the Board of Officers and Lieutenants Hathway Russell Cookesley &c.

When Colonel Smith visited the Barracks of the 1st Battalion which appears to have been not until about

defended myself against them that I addressed the Commander in
Chief under date the 17th and Government the 20th ultimo Nos and
flattered myself with the hope that the reasonableness of my
application would have ensured its success but on the 4th Instant
I received a Letter (No) from Mr Secretary Webbe informing me
that Government had not deemed a Compliance with it to be necessary

Thus circumstanced I am deprived of the advantage
generally afforded to those who are accused and obliged to defend my
Honour without a knowledge of the particular matters objected to I
am placed in a severe situation and I feel all its severity but the
difficulties I have to encounter and the obstacles to be surmounted
however formidable in their combinations and painful in their
consideration cannot deter me from the attempt at least to shew that I have
deserved the stations I have held in the Army and been worthy of
the trust reposed in me by Government

I have long been an object of desire to a certain description
of Men and every method that could be devised has been adopted
to injure me and Artifice and design have been blended with
the endeavours that have been exerted to ruin me — I had —
experienced the deviation of a Board of Officers from the purpose
for which it ostensibly sat — I had known when their
expressed intention has been an enquiry into the Conduct
of certain Persons and its real object to be an —
investigation

investigation into my own I allude to an enquery ordered by Colonel now Major General Brathwaite to sit at Marmalong and which I considered as it afterwards appeared to be an indirect attack upon myself – I offered the objections stated in Paper N° and Captain (now Major) Clarke was abruptly dismissed from the Presidents Tent with an Officer like observation of the President (Colonel Sale) that they were not tryeng Colonel Geels – The instant therefore that I understood the Board under whose proceedings and report I am now suffering was meant to be assembled I offered to you Sir my objections to it and the reasons upon which those objections were founded N° is only what I presumed to write to you; I will know – that those who could not impeach my Conduct in an open Court where I should be present to confront them where declarations requered the solemnity of an Oath to give them Credit and where the Judges themselves were sworn to administer justice without partiality or prejudice would in another place where no such forms and restrictions were observed giveng way to the dictates of their interest and the impulse of their resentment asperse my reputation and as far as possible blast every thing dear to me both as an Officer and as a Man, and If the present occasion has I have some reason to apprehend served to illustrate the fact I submitted to you my opinion regardeng the measures that appeared best calculated to obtain the Truth respecteng the Meteng and that I would not allow a Board of Officers to deal with my conduct as they might [illegible]

I [illegible]

you shall have them redressed to morrow and I pledge you my honor you shall have it done if you will only go to your Barracks — One man called out and none punished? Colonel Smith said not if I can help it or words to that effect. The men called out that wont do — Lieutenant Charleton here whispered to Colonel Smith — when Colonel Smith then said well then I pledge my honor that none shall be punished nor hurt (Lieutenant Limond thinks he added) only go to your Barracks — On Lieutenant Cookesley returning to the main guard he observed Colonel Smith for the 1st time then about 10 oblock with some other Officers, the men formed a Circle round him and called upon Lieutenant Cookesley to pick up a paper that lay on the ground which he did and afterwards gave it to Colonel Smith who upon perusing it and finding it to be a list of grievances gave his word it should be redressed — Colonel Smith saying take me prisoner Men I will be answerable and no one punished for it through my means if they go to their Barracks peaceably here they replied that wont do you must give your word of honor that neither you nor any one else shall hurt us. Colonel Smith seemed to hesitate here and Mr. Charleton was observed to touch his arm when Colonel Smith said well men none of you shall be hurt upon this assurance they broke and went into the Barracks and some of the Officers to their Quarters from whence Lieutenant Cookesley wrote the note to me stated in my narrative to the Board of Officers —

Lieutenant Cookesley had scarcely undressed himself (about half past 10 oblock) when some of the Serjeants came to inform him that the Men were drawing the Guns from the Park and called for him

them when he came to the Barracks he found they had drawn up seven or eight Guns in front of them but had nothing to say to him nor would they listen to any remonstrances of the Officers present but remained under Arms until Lieutenant Cookesley was obliged from sickness to retire and in this state they were represented to me by Colonel Smith and almost all the Officers who had assembled at my quarters on my return to the Cantonments from the Commander in Chiefs -

The Honorable Lieutenant General Harris President Governor in Council

Sir

The very severe Censure on my Conduct published in General Orders on the 5th Ultimo compels me to address you on the Subject a Censure declaredly founded upon the proceedings and report of a Board of Officers of which Major General Ross was President.

Unacquainted as I am with the facts contained in those proceedings I am utterly at a loss to conjecture in what manner they could have been reported to induce Government to believe that I did not make those Exertions which it was my duty to have made for the purpose of enforcing the authority and executing that trust which was confided to me as Commanding Officer of St. Thomas's Mount and Commandant of Artillery - It was with a view of deriving a knowledge of those facts and that Report, - and -

defer d[illegible]

and he gave several Orders but with little effect — Lieutenant Hathway again ordered the men to Shoulder and on about twelve men disobeying it — stepped up to one of them and gave him the word to shoulder which he took no notice of when Lieutenant Hathway seized him by the Collar calling upon a non Commissioned Officer to mark him who replied he had —

Lieutenant Charleton who had just before joined as has been stated — called out upon this where is the man that wont Shoulder? upon which there was a general cry of - knock him down — Lieutenant Limond observing that Mr. Charleton received a blow on the head with the Butt of a firelock from a man of the rear rank whereupon Lieutenant Hathway desisted from his endeavour at singling out a man and stepped back - They both however continued to call to the men and to persuade them to return to their Barracks — which after some time and frequently halting they appeared to do of their own accord upbraiding them - for not having turned out and to whatever Lieutenants Charleton or Hathway offered to say in their way back - The men only replied put him on the Guard - hold your jaw - you will hurt yourself - about this time — Lieutenants Hathway Russell and Limond declare Lieutenant Charleton called out is there no non Commissioned Officer will condescend to speak to me and in the presence of Lieutenant Hathway who was senior Officer certainly — exceeded his authority as he gave his word and honor if they came in day light all their grievances would be redressed

On returning Lieutenant Limond left the party and went towards the Main Guard where he found Captain Tanner and Lieutenant Welldon — informed as Captain Tanner was in the act of calling out —

Sum

Turn out Guard Turn out Guard Near seeming to obey him said loud enough to be heard he could depend upon and send for his own Company - he came up and asked Mr Lemond his name and if he would stop to Colonel Smith to acquaint him (now near 10 o'clock) that the men were in a state of Mutiny Mr Lemond replied he was informed Colonel Smith had gone to General Harris and Captain Tanner was informed that a man had been sent on horse back to inform General Geels - Captain Tanner observed that it was very well left the Guard and was followed by Mr Lemond to the 1st Battalion who had formed a Circle round Colonel Smith which Captain Tanner not observing (Mr Lemond supposes) called out hear me Men - One man replied damn you will you speak? a Non Commissioned Officer informed him at this time of Colonel Smith being present, Mr Lemond saw nomore of Captain Tanner but went himself into the Circle where he found Colonel Smith was with Lieut Charleton Russell and Cookesley and seemed in the act of his first Address, for at this moment he was saying what is it you want men? What are your grievances? some answered Mr Cookesley had got a paper and Mr Cookesley went up upon this to Colonel Smith saying he had got a paper from the ground and if Colonel Smith wished he would give it to him Colonel Smith requesting the paper to be shewn him called for a light to read it by, The men immediately called out — No lights — Colonel Smith replied very well and went to the Guard Room that was 40 or 50 yards off to read it at the Guard light Colonel Smith returned again to the Circle from the Guard room and said if this is what you call your grievances Men, I assure you

you

with the exception of the Lieutenant Foreworker Wellesley of the 1st Batt. who was on Guard - N.B Captains Rowly and Burke had dined at Pammal with Mr. Webbe - I observed him Captain Rowly with a great coat on, but I did not hear him once open his lips -

About nine o'Clock, there was an alarm in the Cantonments from the beating of a Drum to Arms, when several of the Non Commissioned Officers of the 1st Battalion came to my House to inform Lieut. Cookesley who had got out of bed and was dressing himself as fast as possible - That the Battalion were under arms, had shaken off all obedience to them and were in an actual state of Mutiny, and that they were ignorant of their intentions - Lieutenant Cookesley (who appeared to have been the first Officer at the Barracks) ran immediately to the Parade; by the time he had got there, the Men had left the 1st Battalion Barracks, and as it was dark he neither knew nor could any one inform him the route they had taken, till at last finding a party of the Mutineers principally of Captain Mayers Company were in possession of the Guard, and had drawn themselves up in front of it It was some time before he could get any answer to his equiries, respecting the cause of so extraordinary a Conduct and not till after he had assured them, he meant to take no advantage of the person who spoke - He was then told they had to complain of a want of pay, or arrears of pay, which he understood to mean the late arrival of Pay at the Mount - The Jackets and Straw hats ordered by Colonels Smith and Saxon - The price of Provisions in the Bazar, and that the arrack was not served on the Barracks, as was the custom in other Corps after expostulating for some time with those men and advising them

them to go to their Barracks and to prevail on the others to do the same when they could prefer their complaints in the morning which seeming to have no effect he recommended to them to put their grievances on paper and he engaged to deliver them to me on my return to the Cantonments they deputed some man for this purpose and at the same time told Lieutenant Cookesley they would go to the 2nd Battalion Barracks where the other men were and if possible prevail on them to do as he advised.

At this moment Lieut^ts Hathway Russell and Limond joined him and as the senior Officer Lieut^t Hathway ordered Lieut^t Cookesley to accompany him to the 2d Battalion Barracks which he did and they there found a considerable part of the 1st Battalion drawn up irregularly on the outside for the Serjeant of the Barrack Guard had shut the 2d Battalion Barrack Gate after Tattoo beating at 8 oblock - Lieutenant Cookesley could observe however from the lights in the Barracks that all the 2d Battalion were up and walking about accountered but he saw no Officers with them Lieutenant Hathway on coming up asked repeatedly what men they were but received no answer he then asked what Battalion they belonged to some one said the first - He then ordered the first Battalion to fall in and immediately to make up their files there appeared some inclination at first to obey but afterwards they did not and he ordered them then repeatedly to shoulder many of them shouldering at first came to an Order again on perceiving a different disposition

Lieutenant Charleton joined at this time and Lieutenant Hathway

His Excellency Lieutenant General Harris - President Governor in Council
&c &c &c Fort St. George —

I have had the honor of receiving on the 17th instant an Order of the Right Honorable Lord Hobart in Council, dated the preceding day — conveying me in the following terms "that I did not make those exertions which it was my duty to have made for the purpose of — enforcing that authority and of executing that trust which was — confided to me as Commanding Officer of St. Thomas Mount and — Commandant of Artillery".

I am sensible how painful it must have been to His Lordship to have passed such a Censure on an Officer of my rank and character in the Service, but as I am not conscious myself of any want of exertion on my part after my return from the Commander in Chief's, to the moment the Mutiny was at an end, or of any neglect in the execution of the trust confided in me as Commanding Officer of the Mount and Corps of Artillery I entreat You will have the Goodness to enable me to defend my Conduct by furnishing me with a Copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Officers, or such other Documents as may have induced the Right Honble the President in Council to come to such a Resolution

I have the honor to be
with much respect
Sir
Your most obedient humble Servant
(Signed) Thomas Geils
Lt

St Thomas Mount 20th February 1798

To Major General Jeals

Sir. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Your Letter, dated the 21st Ultimo and to inform You that the Honble the Governor in Council having instituted an enquiry into the late Mutiny of the Artillery, having in consequence passed such Resolutions as he judged expedient, and having referred the whole subject to the consideration of the Honble Court of Directors, does not deem it necessary to furnish You with the Proceedings of the Board of Officers —

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient humble Servant

Fort St. George
23rd February 1798

(Signed) J. Webbe Sec.y to Government

(Signed) J. Fullarton Col.o

Narrative of Lieutenants Hathway, Russell, Limond and Cookesley taken by Major General Jeals 2 March 1798 —

On the evening of Monday the 15th of January the Commander in Chief gave a Ball at his House, which is about Six Miles from the Mount, where I and all the Officers of the Corps of Artillery, excepting Colonel Smith, Major Mandeville, Captains Howly, Tanner, Darke and Burke, Lieutenants Hathway, Russell Charleton, Grant, Fowler, Cookesley, Wildon and Limond, were present, of those Officers, Major Mandeville, Captain Jordan — Lieutenant Hathway Cookesley were reported sick, Captain Tanner was Captain of the day and Lieutenant Weldon Officer of the — Main Guard, so that Colonel Smith was Senior Officer in the Cantonment, Captains Tanner and Darke Lieutenant Russel Charleton, Fowler and Grant, all officers in the 2d Battalion, who were in fact the only Officers left for duty in the Cantonment.

with

Lieutenant General Harris &c &c &c Commander in Chief

Sir I have this moment been honored with the receipt of a Government Order of Yesterdays date, Censuring me in the following Terms — "That I did not make use of those exertions which it was my duty to have made for the purpose of enforceing that authority and of executing that trust, which was confided to me as Commanding Officer of St. Thomas Mount and Commandant of Artillery"

It is an easy matter for Government to pass such Censure, but as I am not conscious myself of any want of exertion on my part, after my return from the Commander in Chiefs House, to the moment the Mutiny — was at an end or of any neglect in the execution of the trust reposed in me as Commanding Officer of the Mount and Corps of Artillery I entreat You will have the goodness to enable me to defend my conduct by furnishing me with a Copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Officers which I notice You are to have referred to you or such other document as may have induced the Right Honble the President in Council to come to such a Resolution —

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient humble Servant

/ signed / Thomas Geils

St Thomas Mount 17th February 1798

To Major General Geils Mount 14th

Dear General In answer to your request of being furnished with a Copy of the Proceedings of the Board of officers, Your application must be to Government but I think You had better call on me, before — You make it if you should still think it can be useful. —

Yours sincerely

18th February / signed / G HL

To Major General Geils &c &c &c

We the undersigned Officers of the Corps under your Command take the earliest opportunity of expressing to You our extreme concern at the Censure passed upon your Conduct, on occasion of the late unfortunate Mutiny among the Men of this Cantonment, and as we were generally eye Witnesses thereto, and cannot well be mistaken in what passed before us We humbly presume, there may have been a misrepresentation of facts, as there appeared to us no part of Your conduct we humbly apprehend on that occasion, that could have merited the slightest Censure —

The Meeting took place in your absence, and we deem it a justice to declare, that we believe and did observe you to have made use of every exertion, which it was Your duty to have made, for the purpose of inforcing authority and executing the trust confided in You to the utmost of your power, and in a masterly and officer like Manner and such as we believe very few and certainly no Officer in this Cantonment could have brought matters, under all the circumstances of the case to so favorable an issue —

We have the honour to be Sir, Your very obedient Servants —

St Thomas Mar
18th February 1798

I Dennistone Brow	(signed)
John Sinclair	C Wm Cragie Capt 2 Batt Artl
Thomas Conkesley	Richard Darke Captain Artillery
John Campbell	Wm Kingsley Lieut Fireworker
Peter Grant	A Weldon Lieut Fire Worker
J G Blair	I Jordan Capt 7 Bn Artl
John Noble	I Russell
Thomas Geils	Alexr Limond 1st Fr worker
Andrew Geils	Robert Taylor
I Hathway Lieut 7 Batt of Artillery	James Gellie Lieut Fr worker

His

charges formed by the Judge advocate General against Banks Clarke and Hamilton with a view of their being brought to Trial as soon as possible

the leading part which they appear from the proceedings of the Board of Officers to have taken in the Mutiny that broke out at St Thomas Mount on the night of the 15th Ultimo —

That the Commander in Chief be desired to suggest measures for the separation of the two Battalions of Artillery — That the 2d Battalion shall remain at St Thomas Mount and that Colonel Smith be appointed to the Command of that Cantonment.

And the President in Council highly approves the very Military conduct of Captain Sinner and the active endeavours of Lieutenant Carleton Lieutenant Rathway and Lieutenant Fowler of the 2d Battalion in endeavouring to enforce discipline and subordination upon the night of the 15th Ultimo —

That the scandalous imputation artfully and wickedly attempted to be cast upon his Majestys 12th and 74th Regiments with a view to intimidate the well disposed part of the Artillery in which the 2d Battalion with a very few exceptions is included, — is wholly without foundation, and that the honest indignation expressed by those Regiments as well as by the 2/3 their Conduct upon this occasion and the Proceedings of the Board of Officers — furnish a strong and unquestionable testimony of that loyalty to their King and that attachment to their Country for which they have been uniformly distinguished —

In conformity with the foregoing Resolutions Colonel Smith is appointed to the Command of the Cantonment at St Thomas Mount —

The

The Head Quarters of the 1st Battalion of Artillery to be at —— Trichinopoly —

A subaltern's Party of Artillery to be stationed at Tanjore, and a party of effective Artillery to be posted at Dendigul, both parties to be detached from Trichinopoly —

One Company of the 1st Battalion of Artillery to be stationed at Masulipatam and one Company at Arnee —

The Commander in Chief is requested to give the necessary Details for the foregoing movements, as well as for relieving by parties from the 1st Battalion, the several details detached from the 2nd Battalion of Artillery —

The remainder of the 1st Battalion of Artillery to march to —— Trichinopoly as soon as they may receive the Orders of the Commander in Chief —

By Order of the Right Honble the President in Council.

(signed) J Webbe Secretary to Government

By order of the Commander in Chief —

(signed) B. Close Aid de Camp General of the Army

G O By Government Fort St. George 17th February 1798

Fully convinced of the qualifications of Captain John Leith, and of his Zeal for the Public Service the Right Honble the President in Council has been pleased to appoint him Judge Advocate General — Under the Presidency —

The Deputy Judge Advocates are — in future to furnish the Judge Advocate General with the Copies of all Courts martial held in their respective Divisions, for their Transmission to the Honorable the Court of Directors —

Lieutenant

assistance in my Power, but to any period prior to this, I cannot conceive
you can say so much assurances to the Men on their returning to their duty
but every thing should be buried in oblivion, altogether precludes me—
It was a great stake I had to preserve and I perceived its magnitude,
and I submit to the Commander in Chief - how dreadful might have
been the case, had my measures been misconstrued, and I had acted otherwise
than I did - the Mutiny was quelled by the line of conduct I pursued,
and I further submit that should any thing similar to the Cessation
of duty in the Artillery, occur in any other Corps, whether the Men will
take the smallest reliance on, or pay the least attention to the assurances
of their Officers if I should be obliged to break through those that have
been given by me, having thus submitted myself, I with the utmost
deference intreat the Commander in Chief to take the peculiar—
circumstances by which I am embarrassed into his consideration, and
then if he should still Order me to come forward, I will as a Soldier
obey - I was in command at the Mount, and I acted, and I trust
still properly, and on the same principle the Commander in Chief—
is now proceeding against those Men, namely the good of the Service,
and on looking back on every circumstance that happened, I consider
it is fortunate that matters were brought to such a conclusion
as they have - I mistake not the Commander in Chief did the same -
Not knowing the precise disposition of His Majesty Regiment
in this Country, and I believed, ascertainly as I write -
this that the 7th were on the March to join, that three Gunships
left the Mount for their use, and that it became a matter of expediency
if not necessity to prevent the possibility of their having the Artillery

to rally upon: which in its consequences might have subverted even Government itself. such were my reasons and have now the honor to be. Sir. Your very obedient Servant (Signed) Thomas Gells

March 2d February 1798 —

Head Quarters of the Army. Choultry Plain 17th February 1798

The Right Honble the President in Council, having addressed the subjoined Orders to the Commander in Chief to be published to the Army; they are accordingly published in a Military Order —

Fort St George 16th February 1798 —

G. O. By Government

Upon a careful consideration of the Proceedings and Report of a Board of Officers, of which Major General Popham was President appointed to enquire into the origin and growth of the late Mutiny at the Mount the steps taken to check or suppress it and also to trace as far as possible, to their source, the rumors imputed to some of His Majestys Regiments of a combination or rather an intended combination with the Artillery —

The Right Honble the President in Council is pleased to publish the following Resolutions recorded in the Minutes of Council —

That Major General Gells did not make those — exertions which it was his duty to have made for the purpose of inforcing that Authority and of executing that trust which were confided to him as Commanding Officer at St Thomas's Mount and Commandant of the Corps of Artillery —

That the Proceeding of the Board of Officers be referred to the Commander in Chief — and that he be requested to have

charges

expressing his entire satisfaction at the Conduct of the Officers and men of the 2d Battalion, during the whole of the preceeding Night and feels much regret that he cannot express himself in the same unequivocal terms of the Conduct of some of the privates of the 1st Battalion who from their insubordination in the early part of the night, appeared to find fault with the order of Government for removing Gunner Stumbles and Matrosses Clarke and Banks to the Presidency under a Guard —

It is with much satisfaction, that the General observes that very few of the Men of the Battalion acted in this manner, but on the contrary, infinitely the greatest part were obedient to their Officers — He trusts therefore the Men of the 1st Battalion themselves will now see the necessity to prevent the Corps being altogether disgraced by shunning those characters among them who from the general irregularity of their Conduct have evinced themselves to be unworthy of the Artillery and in such case the General assures them he will use his best endeavours with the Commander in Chief to get them removed from it

11

To Major General Geals - Sir - As it is intended that the four Mutineers of the Artillery who are now in confinement in Fort St George shall be brought to trial without delay — The Commander in Chief has desired me to signify his Commands, that You will ascertain from the Officers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of Artillery the Persons who should be called as Witnesses against the Mutineers in question —

and

and transmit a List of them to Head Quarters —

The Commander in Chief expects that the List will be formed not only from the information you may procure as above but from your own knowledge of circumstances which have happened connected with the Mutiny — I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant —

(Signed) Barry Close, Adjutant General of the Army

Fort St. George 2 February 1798 .

Lieutenant Colonel Close Adjutant General of the Army

Sir — I am honored with your letter of the 2 instant signifying the Commander in Chief's Commands that I would ascertained from the Officers of the 1st and 2 Battalions of Artillery the Persons who should be called upon as Witnesses against the Mutineers in question by which I understand Gunner Stumbles of the 1st Matrosses Clarke and Banks of the 2 and Lawrence of the 1st Battalion of Artillery) and transmit a List of them to Head Quarters — and in compliance with which I have the honor to forward the enclosed List furnished me by Colonel Smith and Lieutenant Colonel Saron — You are further desired to inform me " The Commander in Chief expects that the List will be formed not only from the information you may procure as above, but from your own knowledge of circumstances which have happened connected with the Mutiny" — In regard to circumstances that May have occurred subsequent to 10 o Clock on the Morning of the 16th Ultimo — so far as they may apply to Gunner Stumbles and Matrosses Clarke and Banks, I shall be glad to give the Commander in Chief every information and assistance

Bazar they said that there were great impositions in it, and although I might not know it myself, my Dubash did. I told them, I did not believe a Syllable of it, that every article to my knowledge, was — now before regulated at the price current of Madras, and that it — would now be on the police Regulations, which would be immediately hung up in the Bazar and rendered into Malabars and German — They gave three cheers upon this, which was answered from Captain Stumbles's party on the Mount — I left them upon this, and drafted the Order, which was sent to the Commander in Chief, and after releasing the release of Lieut.t Cresdill who had been put in arrest on complaint of Captain Tanner, which I complied with, the Men returned quietly to their duty —

With respect to the Bazar, the Committee may satisfy themselves if they should have a doubt on the subject, by calling on the Man Taylor, who I have stated, gave me information. The Bazars are doubtless of much consequence in considering the welfare of the Men of a Corps, and I have paid every attention to it, in order to render the price of different articles as low as possible; and this is all the — reference I have with it, as whatever may be the custom of the Service I never either directly or indirectly derived any advantage from it, nor would I ever allow any one under me to do so —

N.B. Captains Malcolm corrected the parts of this Narrative respecting the time he had mentioned the Commander in Chief's apprehensions regarding the 1st and 74th Regiments, to be after the Mutiny was over — The impression on my mind was different however, the parts marked under were struck out, as irrelevant in the Boards opinion to this subject —

To.

To Major General Geils Commanding at St. Thomas's Mount -

Sir -- The Right Honble the President in Council having deemed it expedient that certain Men of the Corps of Artillery should be secured, directs me to desire that You will in the course of this Evening, or tomorrow Morning (as You judge most convenient) secure the Persons of Gunner Stumbles of the 1st Battalion and Matrosses Clarke and Banks of the 2d Battalion, and march them Prisoners under a sufficient Guard into Madras, where upon their arrival, they are to be delivered over to the Town Major - You are expressly to understand, that the execution of this order is to be unincumbered by any conditions whatever -.

I have the honor to be, Sir Your most obedient humble Servant

Fort St. George
1st February 1798

(Signed) J Webbe
Secretary to Government

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Mount 1st February 1798

Cantonment Evening Orders

Gunner Stumbles of the 1st and Matrosses Clarke and Banks of the 2d Battalion to be sent Prisoners to Fort St. George immediately A Serjeant and four Men of the 1st and a Corporal and four of the 2d Battalion to take charge of the Prisoners to the Fort

(10)

Mount Friday 2d February 1798

C. M. O. Major General Geils takes the earliest opportunity

of

Conduct of the men before their junction and that distinct from every consideration of the illiberality of an attempt to exculpate one Corps, no matter whether Kings or Companys at the expence of another, the fact in this case not to be sustained.

Captain Malcolm had come to me from the Commander in Chief and witnessed some of those acts - He stated to me the apprehension regarding the 1st and 74th and I gave my opinion respecting the measure that should be adopted with the Artillery Men, he proposed calling at Mr Saunders's to breakfasting at the Mount, in case it became necessary, to march Troops against us, and he had hardly gone when three signal Guns were fired from the Mount, and a white Pendant was hoisted and the Spying Glass applied alternately to the Madras and Pananallee Road - I deemed this the moment for decision and immediately got up and walked towards the Barracks forbidding any of them to follow me; some of them however did after I had joined the men on my approaching the Barracks they turned out and formed a Circle - several voices called out "no officers" - but on my saying I would be heard some of them called out, that I wished to speak to them, when I stepped into the Circle; addressing them in my usual tone of voice, that I had come to know their final resolution before I made my report to Head Quarters; they said they had given them in to Colonel Smith already, I told them that paper (see page 46) was in my profession but it appeared so invidious, that I desired to hear from themselves, what they had and the extent of what they had to complain of One man said he had brought a good bill, and he and others of the Company from the Northward were Notwithstanding under stoppages for more, I told him —

that

that was a Regimental and an individual consideration, and could be easily redressed I requested to know what could possibly have induced them to adopt such an extraordinary line of Conduct – several of them appeared to be in Liquor – they said they required their pay on the 1st of the month to which I opposed the arguments already offered, but if they were actually in distress for money, I would order the 2d payment to be made but the consequence would be, that their money would be out before the next payment would be received – They said I could always get it if I pleased, the 1st of the Month for them, or I might advance it myself – I told them, I certainly would have assisted them, had they applied to me, but that I could not bring the pay from Madras before it was convenient for Government to issue it to all the Corps of the Service, and they must be sensible that at Trichinopoly they never get their pay, before the 10th or 15th of any month, and in the Field, not before a Month or six weeks after it is due, and that they should consider even at this time the pay in their Officer's hands was fifteen days in advance – But to let them understand what they now wanted – They said their pay on the 1st of the Month – that is you mean – I should order you the 1st and 2d payment to be paid at once – I will order it – and the next – The arrack to be drawn and served in the Barracks – I told them this was a Regulation I had great reluctance at giving in to, but if they would promise it should not be abused I would order it to be served in the Barracks The next thing they brought forward, was the undress Jackets and Straw hats, dwelling much on the distress of the 14 fanams, I think they said, would reduce them to Monthly, until they had paid for them I said I would dispence with their furnishing them, and a free

Bazar

Serving of the arrack at the Godown, was to prevent any abuse, and if I was rightly informed, such a Regulation must be highly re-
-quisite to themselves, as it had been reported to me no less
than 15 Centries had been posted over the Godown during the
preceding night, — And lastly in Regard to the undress Jackets
we lay — However I might approve of the intention, it was an
Arrangement that depended upon Colonels Smith and Faron alone
but if the men would return to their Duty and particularly that
they would draw the Guns to the Lines again, I would on a proper
representation take the Subject into Consideration — The men during
all this time were respectful to me and the Officers with me —
but as there did not appear any inclination to return immediately
to their Duty I left them and went to my Quarters —

Early on the morning of the 16th I rode purposely by the
Lines and noticed by some of the men whom were in front, my
coming in Sight, they persisted in so Shameful a Conduct —
For God Sake Sahib draw those Guns to the Park again —
I never knew a Expounder to disgrace an artillery man before,
come forward two or three of you and tell me what you really
would be at, and do not think I mean to take the advantage
of you, on the contrary I shall Consider myself obliged to
him who will at this time State their grievances to me, Several
came on this Assurance, and Observed they had given a List of
them to Colonel Smith, and that they were to have a free Bazar — Their
Pay on the 1st of the Month — The arrack Served in the Barracks and not to
be Stopt for undress Jackets — To the first I replied, that the Bazar was
as they had a right to, & I would make them
as free as ever and if it were not so, immediately the time of the arrival of
the Pay would determine its time of Issue The mode of Serving the arrack I positively
refused and the undress when they shewed a disposition to merit it, I would
take into Consideration — And now Gentlemen, I added,

That

that you have stated your compliants, and you have heard what I have to say upon it. I gave you until 2 O'Clock this Morning to consider of it, and if by that time, you have not returned to your duty like good Soldiers, I must and will report your Conduct to the Commander in Chief, and you and I must stand to the consequence —

I went home to breakfast, and was seated at Table with some of the officers, when we heard a noise at the Barracks, which was presently understood to be the 2d Battalion, who had joined the 1st — I beg to lead the attention of the Board here, to one circumstance, and which I hope they will carry in their recollection that I had I acceded to the demands of the people, either the evening before or early on the morning of the 16 the 2d Battalion would have appeared to have had no concern in the Mutiny, and but for what one of the officers told me, and their subsequent conduct which I am now about to state some credit might have been given to a malicious whisper in circulation, that the 2d Battalion of Artillery were as quiet as Lambs in their Barracks, and would have remained so, had they not been forced to a contrary behaviour by the attrocious conduct of the 1st who even threatened them with a Brigade of Guns —

It was next reported the men had taken possession of the Mount, the Battery the Magazine and 2d Batt.n Barracks and I witnessed from Table their drawing off more Guns and ammunition and to complete my humiliation, they tore my Flag from the mast. I do not mean to comment on reflections on the 2d Conduct here, more than the 1st I consider they were equally culpable, but only to assert that nothing decided Gr violent appeared in the

Conduct

taken possession of the Main Guard and Guns, I ordered all the
Officers out that I met with, immediately and followed myself as
soon after as I had mustered the Men I sent
Genl Harris; on the Road I met a note from Lieutenant Cooksley
stating that he had been just called out by a Drum beating to
arms in the 1st Battalion Barracks, and when he got there, he found
part of the 1st Battalion under Arms that they had marched down to
the 2d Battalion Barracks but could not persuade them to join.
They were returned quietly to their Barracks again, on Colonel
Smith having pledged himself, the List of Grievances they had
given him, should be redressed. I sent my Aid de Camp
at this time, to General Harris, to acquaint him that matters
appeared to me in a good Train for Arrangement.

I met Lieutenant Fowler on the Road between, who repeated a
message from Colonel Smith to the best of my recollection nearly to the Effect
of what I had learnt from the Artillery Man and Lieutenant Cooksley's Note
on my arrival at the Cantonment every thing was apparently
quiet but I understood from Colonel Smith and the other Officers
that they still had Seven or eight Guns drawn up, and that they
could not be induced to return them to the Lines. I had now
determined and written General Harris to that Effect, that I would
not go near them until morning, but on the Repeated entreaties
of some of the Gentlemen I went over without a light, the men
I found to the number of about eighty in front of the Barracks
with Guns and Arms stacked.

I addressed them expressing my Surprize at finding them in such a
Situation - several voices were raised at once, enumerating what
they termed, grievances respecting the price of articles in the
Bazar - their Want of Pay at this late period of the Month -
the last Payment had, I believe been given them in the

morning

Morning and it is a Corps Arrangement of mine that at whatever period the Pay arrives, the times of the Several payments are calculated so as it may last until the Same Day in the next Month, in order that the men may not be distressed for Money before the next Month's Pay arrives / Their Drams being drawn at the Grogown, and lastly a Stoppage made for an Underdress Jacket and Hat.—

I told them, the first Complaint, I had Reason to think was unfounded, and that I would prove it to them, by one of their own Mess Caterers, Taylor, of Captain Isaacks Company, who had given me more insight into the Madras Regulations than I had been Master of before, and on which Score, they Considered themselves aggrieved, as not being able to get Provisions at so moderate a rate at the Mount. The man Called out, he had told the General this: That he had gone to Madras, on the men Complaining that the Expence of their Messing was too high, and the Result was, that he has ascertained, that every Article Mutton and Bread excepted was at the Same Price or less at the Mount than at Madras. Mutton I think he Said, was Cheaper at the Mount but not so good as at Madras — Bread from the Quantity baked at the latter place was not only something Cheaper, but Soft bread was Sold at an under value at Madras which could not be the Case at the Mount, as no more was baked than was required for the Daily Consumption of the Cantonment. In Regard to their pay being issued Sooner or later in the Month, this must depend I told them, on the time of its being Sent from Madras, — My Arrangement of the after distribution of it, were to ensure them a Regular Subsistence until the Arrival of the Pay of the Subsequent Month — The

Serving

Debts and taking the hint from the same anonymous question to direct the Officers Commanding Companies to issue the pay themselves to the men.

The very same day or at farthest the day following the 11th instant I learnt from Colonel Saxon he had issued the Orders but that he had reason to believe from a Letter he had and which he gave to me that there was not a word of truth in the anonymous Epistle. It stated as follows "To Captain Burke Commanding the 5th Company 1st Battalion of artillery Sir In consequence of a very malicious Intending "to asperse the character of Corporal Desmarting Pay Sergeant of the "Company under your Command which was directed to and received "by Lieutenant Colonel Saxon the immediate Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion."

"We the undersigned Non Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Company esteem it our duty to address you in order to rescue the character Corporal Dunn from the falsest and most malevolent of accusations which if we correctly reported originated from an individual of our own Company."

In order therefore to effect this we do hereby declare that Corporal Dunn has not by any means directly or indirectly withheld from any one of us the smallest part of our pay by extorting Interest for money advanced by him as is insidiously insinuated by the author of the Letter in question so far to the contrary he has even during the time he paid the Company given every one his due and obliged many with farthings when they were in want but not "upon the score of interest."

"We therefore earnestly request you Sir to lay this our "declaration before the Commanding Officer and sincerely wish it may tend to convince him of the scandalous falsehoods contained in the above mentioned Letter and we at the same time heartily wish

with, that the Author may be discovered to contribute to which our best endeavours shall not be wanted — Mount 15th January 1798 —

Signed by Sixty Seven Non Commissioned and Private of the Company —

After Reading and attentively perusing this Letter, I told Colonel Saxon, I Still believed every Syllable of the anonymous production, and advised him to make no Alteration in the Arrangement he had given out in Regimental Orders. I think it was while we were Reading this Letter and when Colonel Smith, likewise was present, that a Report came that Several of the Europeans were making a Riot in the Bazar and I directed those Gentlemen to go immediately to the Spot and enquire into the meaning of it —

The Money was Received the night before but was Locked up in a Tumbril until the Paymasters People Should arrive to distribute it I beg leave to notice here that the deviation from the System of Paying by Corps, and adopting that of Paying by Companys — under the Counter Signature of the Commanding Officer, has not in my mind, been an improvement on the Bengal Regulations - I cannot charge my memory with the exact Report Colonels Smith and Saxon made me on this Occasion; but it appeared that the men being in want of their Pay, they required Certain Bazar Articles on Credit, which I believe they sometimes get; however this may have been, I heard not an Ote more on this Subject, or any other Subject, until an Artillery Man, Came from Lieutenant Cookesley on horseback to me at General Harris's on the 15th at about ½ past 10 at Night telling me he had Come express to inform me that the Men of the 1st Battalion of Artillery had got under arms, and had taken

for the honor of my Corps and I confess myself hurt at even the shadow of indelicacy; the Officers of artillery therefore ought in my humble opinion to be always present during the examinations taking by the Board. To exclude them would as the fact appears to my mind, be a kind of Constructive or implied doubt of their veracity, and honor and that in order to get at the truth it was found necessary by the Board to examine them seperately and apart from each other. I may be wrong, but situated as I am at the head of a Corps it is only acting consistently with the dictates of my feelings, but performing perhaps the nicer part of my duty, to suggest to you the best mode to avoid even the semblance of a slur upon those with whom I have the honor to serve.

About two days previous to the time this unfortunate business took place there was an anonymous Letter addressed to Lieutenant Colonel [illegible] from which he handed to me. It run thus. "Kind Sir having had the honor of being under your Command for some years and having had that wish for you and good will for my fellow Soldiers that every man ought to have is the occasion of my sending this to you Sir since the few months that the Pay Serjeants of Companies of the 1st Battalion have made a common practice of buying mens pay for two or three months at a time the men having no money to buy victuals desert and bring a scandal on the Corps and punishment on themselves now Sir among this number is Serjeant Deacon Corporal Langdon of Captain Hayes and Serjt [illegible] Quigley in Captain Howley's the former of which has all the mess Batta in the Company and eighteen or twenty mens pay

"now Sir would you be so good as to order the Captains of Companies to pay the
"men themselves and punish those execrtionate Scoundrels that rob a poor
"Soldier – it would put a stop to those villainous proceedings now carried
on in the Battalion Sir Order the Captains of Companies to ask the men
privately what they owe the Pay Serjeant and then you will find it to be
true Sir the Rules of Interest are thus

One month 3 Pagodas	2½ pagodas
For one Rupee	1.5 fanams
For one Pagoda	36 fanams

Your most dutyful and obedient Servant

P.S. I sincerely hope you will make an example of those men that encourage
every bad practice among the men for a trifling sum of gain – P.S. I overheard
15 men of Captain Hayes and 21 of Cowley say they had no pay to get
for two months to come and that therefore they would rob the first black or
white man they met with so Sir you see how things stand amongst us
we hope for redress as you are a Gentlemen we will die for it" √

Your most obedient and humble Servant"

N.B. the Original in Stumbles's hand writing

Among this number is / Here three names are stated but I would
request the Board's opinion in this instance whether from my assurance
to the men as stated in my Letter to the Commander in Chief I am at liberty /
to name them It happened as is true before the mutiny and the Board
will have reason to notice hereafter that the accusation was attempted to
be done away in a Letter to the Officer Commanding one of the Companies
the former of which has all the men's Batta in the Company Ma. Ma. Ma.
I believed every word of this on the instant I recommended —
to Colonel Pearon to cancel all such —

Debts

for the honor of my Corps and Country myself must at even the shadow of
indelicacy. The Officers of artillery therefore ought in my humble opinion
to be always present during the examinations taking by the Board.
To exclude them would as the fact appear to my mind, bear a kind of
Constructive or implied doubt of their veracity, and honor and that in order
to get at the truth it was found necessary by the Board to examine them
seperately and apart from each other. I may be wrong but Situated as
I am at the head of a Corps it is only acting consistently with the dictates of
my feelings, but performing perhaps the nicer part of my duty, to suggest
to you the best mode to avoid even the semblance of a slur upon those with
whom I have the honor to serve.

About two days previous to the time this unfortunate business
occurred there was an anonymous Letter addressed to Lieutenant Colonel
Lane which he handed to me. It ran thus. "Good Sir having had the
"Army under your Command for some years and having had that
"for you and good will for my fellow Soldiers that every man ought
"to have is the occasion of my sending this to you Sir since the few months
"the Pay Sergeants of Companies of the 1st Battalion have made a common
"practice of buying men's pay for two or three months at a time the men
"having no money to buy victuals desert and bring a scandal on the
"Corps and punishment on themselves now Sir among this number is
Sergeant Deacon Corporal Langdon of Captain Hayes and Serg.t
"Quidley in Captain Bowles + the former of which has all the men's
Batta in the Company and eighteen or twenty men's pay

now Sir would you be so good as to order the Captains of Companies to pay the men themselves and punish those exclorsionate Scoundrels that rob a poor Soldier it would put a stop to those villainous proceedings now carried on in the Battalion Sir Order the Captains of Companies to ask the men privately, what they owe the Pay Serjeant and then you will find it to be true. Sir the Rules of Interest are thus.

One month 3 Pagodas	2½ pagodas
For one Rupee	1.5 fanams
For one Pagoda	36 fanams

"Your most dutiful and obedient Servant

"P.S. I sincerely hope you will make an example of those men that encourage every bad practice among the men for a trifling sum of gain." P.S. overheard 15 men of Captain Bayes and 2 of Bowles say they had no pay to get for two months to come and that therefore they would not be the first black or white man they met with so Sir you see how things stand amongst us we hope for redress as you are a Gentleman we will die for you. ✓

Your most obedient and humble Servant.

N.B. the original in Stumbles hand writing

Among this number are there three names are stated but should request the Boards opinion in this instance whether from my assurance to the men as stated in my Letter to the Commander in Chief Jamaica to name them. It happened it is true before the muting and the Board will have reason to notice hereafter that the accusation is attempted to be done away in a Letter to the Officer Commanding one of the Companies the former of which has all the men Balla in his Company &c &c &c I believed every word of this on the instant recommended to Colonel Faron to cancel all such

Delta

might down to the Park with my flag which before had been struck
fly [illegible] me of them and every thing else restored to Order I have the
[illegible] to be Sir your most Obedient humble Servant

Mount 16th January 1798 Signed / Thomas Geal

Dear General If you have not intimated to the Corps that the Commander
in Chief will see them tomorrow he will not come up as he is very busy
and it is rendered less necessary by apprehensions respecting the 12th being
over I will probably have the pleasure of breakfasting with you your
Troy Signed / John Malcolm

My Dear General

I have just seen Colonel Saxon who tells me Colonel Smith
reports to you that the 2d Battalion were forced to take part in the
late business by the 1st and as I believe the contrary to be the fact I will
certainly insist on Colonel Smith proving what he has asserted.—

The enquiry to me bears a very extraordinary aspect and
I have little doubt of such a thing takes place but that it is meant
or will be turned to some purpose as an apology for Brathwaite's Conduct
towards me on a former occasion— I therefore take this opportunity of acquainting
you that I will not have my Conduct submitted to any Committee of
enquiry or even being implicated there— It has already been before that
of a Court martial and I will have no side wind aspersion thrown out
upon it If an Enquiry is at all necessary in the late business I am the proper
person to conduct it and I shall consider it an indelicacy if [illegible] named—

Mount 19th January 1798 I am Dear General yours faithfully
Signed / Thomas Geal

January 24th 1798

I imagine it to be the intention of the Board to investigate as far as they may be able to do so the circumstances that led to the shutting of the artillery at the Mount and if that be the case the best certainly the most correct mode to be adopted on the occasion would be to call together the Officers of the Corps who were present on the spot and hear the necessary particulars from them as they are capable of relating them. In a transaction such as the present where there were several Officers spectators and engaged in attempting to bring the men back to a sense of their Duty which they had departed from the recollection of the one of us in any instance defective should have the aid of another by which means all that is sought after will be compleatly obtained. Gentlemen therefore ought not to be examined seperate and apart from but in the presence of each other. I submit those my Ideas to the Board from a full persuasion of their propriety and justness and further that all examinations should be as publick as possible. I do not wish to be present myself during the examination of any Gentlemen but as all my communications with the men were publick I anxiously wish that Colonels Smith and Saxon and as many other Officers of the Corps as convenient should be present during the statement I may have to offer to the Board in order that they may set me right if in any part of it I should happen to have misconceived or forgot facts necessary to be perfectly understood and fully narrated.

In matters like the present there ought not to be any hours so stated by different Gentlemen as to bear different Constructions much less to give rise to animosities — I feel — — —

for

Mount 16th of January 1798 Tuesday D. Y. Parole Oblivion

The Commanding Officer directs that the 1st and 2d payments
immediately given to the men of both Battalions that the Arrack
in future drawn by orderlies of Companies and served out to the Men
the Barracks the dishes with the men being provided with wh
P. C. and Straw Hats as proposed by Officers Commanding Corps and
positively directs that the Madras prices alone shall regulate those
of the articles of Consumption at the Mount

The following Letter written at the Commander in Chiefs Table at
Fort St George, notwithstanding it is dated at the Mount

Lieutenant General Harris &c &c &c

Sir since I had the pleasure of communicating to you this morning by
Aide de Camp Malcolm I had reason to view matters differently from what I had
then as shortly after his departure I had intelligence brought me that the
2d Battalion of artillery had joined the 1st at their Barracks had detached
a Company to the top of the mount and another to the 2d Battalion
Barracks drawing three or four more Guns and some Tumbrils of ammuni-
tion to the front of them Presently after this three Guns were fired from the
Mount and a while Pendant hoisted upon which I concluded an
understanding was established between the Artillery the Troops at
Poonamalle and Fort St George and seizing that moment of going
upon the Parade to know their present resolution I found it necessary
to concede to them such matters as they considered

Regimental

Regimental grievances - As the mode of distributing the arrack Ordering the 2d payment of the present month to be issued dispensing with their furnishing themselves an undress white Jacket and straw hat and lastly Regulating the Bazar articles of consumption on the exact prices detailed in the new Police Regulations - In holding conversation with several of the men I do not recollect any but one man, hinting at the smallness of their pay — indeed this was followed by another noticing the increase of the Officers — allowances, though no attention had been given to that of the poor men and it was then I now recollect told this man in conformity to what General Harris observed on leaving him the night before, that although it was not any part of their grievances as stated to me I knew it to be in contemplation with the Commander in Chief to prepare an Arrangement on this head for there could be no doubt I said but that it was meant to put all the Troops in this Country on the same footing with that announced from home — It was not however until after much persuation I had the pleasure to observe an inclination of returning to their duty and not without requiring an assurance from me that no man should suffer hereafter for what had now happened I assured them there should not they wished an assurance in writing which I said would be disgraceful to both me and them but that I would pledge my honor They then sent a party of about twenty of their body to me to solicit the release of Lieutenant Crosdill who had been ordered in Arrest for what is needless to notice here as it has not been forwarded to Head Quarters This I readily complied with and so soon as the Cantonment [P.T.] which I now inclose were read to them I had the pleasure to see the Guns

brought

1/4

To General Harris

My Dear General I found every thing ~~tolerably~~ quiet at the main on my Arrival - I do not mean to go near the Barracks ~~this~~ morning - From what I can learn the Pay Serjeants of Companies have been lending money to the Men, which has distressed them so much that they require two or three of the payments together - In the morning I shall be able to find out more of every thing being settled properly -

I am my Dear General yours faithfully Signed J. Gale

At ~~11~~ 15 Minutes Midnight

2/

My Dear General

I went in front of our Barracks this morning and found that a number of our Men with their Arms and eight Guns drawn up in front of them formed a Mass of the 2d Battalion appear to know any thing of the matter, at least they have hitherto taken no part. I called to one of them by name to state their Complaints assuring them they should have every redress in my power they told me they required a free Bazar & they have been led to think from the late Police, they were to have provisions at half price. I told them the Bazar was already as free as air and if it were otherwise I would certainly make it so - They would have their pay on the 1st of the Month - I told them it was impossible the pay could not arrive till late in the month -

sometimes

Sometimes and it must be managed to last till the next months pay arrived. — They would have their drams drawn or issued in the Barracks I told them it was not possible — It should be issued at such place and time as I and their Officers should determine upon — That they did not want an undress Jacket and straw hat and consequently ought not to be stopped for them — Told them this last was an arrangement of Colonel Smith and Lieutenant Colonel Saxons which I had nothing to say to — but upon a proper representation to me, I should take the Subject into consideration. And now Gentlemen, I added that you have made your Complaints and I have heard what I have to say on the Subject I give you until 8 o Clock this morning to consider of it and if by that time you do not return to your duty like good Soldiers I must and will report your Conduct to Head Quarters and you and I must stand to the consequence.

I am more than ever convinced they have no real cause of Complaint but that the whole has arisen from some of the Non Commission ed. Officers buying up the Men's pay some say for two or three months and they are now distressed for the means of discharging the Debt. ✓

Colonel Saxon cancelled those Debts by an Order the day before yesterday and directed all payments should be made in future by Captains Commanding Companies themselves — and I think they have had address enough to spirit up the men to this Conduct in hopes of recovering the money due themselves.

I am my Dear General yours faithfully Signed J. Gell

Mount 16th January 1798

Captain Malcolm carried this Letter with him to Genl Harris intending to Breakfast at Mr Saunders in his way — I think the Letter was open

Mount

Mdy Brenton 94

To the Honorable The Chairman and Court of Directors for the Affairs of the united Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies —

Honorable Sir and Gentlemen,

I beg leave to submit to the consideration of y^r Honble Court a Correspondence and other Papers connected therewith, which I have unfortunately been engaged in with Lieutenant General Harris when acting Governor in Council of Fort St George in consequences of an unmerited Censure passed upon me founded on the Proceedings and Report of an unfair and illegal investigation of my Conduct by a Board of Officers of which Major General Ross was President and the Adjutant and Quarter Master General Members —

I will not presume to offer a comment on those Papers but I must how hard it is upon me not only to have a demy Cause for proceeds but to be refused what every private Gentleman is entitled to from the Articles of War — a Trial by his Peers — and to be obliged in this manner to lay open my Defence by recording some of my Evidences — notwithstanding I have deemed it prudent to withhold them — till Government are pleased publickly to announce their Protection of them; I have little doubt but that every means will be used by the party to discover them and if possible to effect their removal as has already been the case in the instance of Lawrence and Connor —

In conclusion I submit the whole subject to the Honble Courts decision which I am sure will be both candid and just and remain with the highest consideration and respect. —

St Thomas Mount
1st October 1798

Honble Sir and Gentlemen
Your most Obedient and faithful
Humble Servant
(Signed) Thomas Wells

any Man upon pain of the Severest
the most solemn manner that were
they order'd against the Honble Company's
Artillery at the Mount & Quell any
Riotous or Mutinous proceeding, they
would shew their Officers and the World
in general that no such Combination
or any Mutinous Correspondence
whatever, either Directly or indirectly
ever exists in the 12th Regiment with
that or any other Corps.—

We beg leave further of
opinion that no such Combination
ever exists as appears by the Reward
offer'd by Colonel Kelly of Two
Hundred Pagodas, and a Recommendation
for a discharge to whatever Man would
come forward and give information
of any one or more Soldiers of the
Regiment who had or Knew of any
Mutinous Correspondence either
by Letter or by any means whatever

(Signd) J. Moore Captain &
Paymaster
M. D. Buckeridge Lieutenant
Robert Major Lieutenant
Nich.s Pushree Lieutenant
Wm Morris Lieutenant

Camp Red Hills
near Pondicherry
February 12th 1798.

(True Copies)
Jam.s Parry
Asst Sec.y

Colonel Henry H. Aston
Commanding H. M. 12th Regiment

Madras

Dear Sir

The Court of Inquiry (that have been sitting by your order) having now closed, I think it a duty I owe the Regiment to declare, it does not appear, there has been the smallest reason to suppose, there ever existed, the least combination, or correspondence whatever, between any Men of 12th Regiment and the Native Companies artillery at this moment.

The different Companies had likewise cleared their Officers to appear to me their sentiments of being so suspected of so detestable a Crime, and their readiness on any occasion, to act against Troops that could either disengage military Discipline or disgrace their Country in so shameful a manner.

I have the Honor to be
Dear Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
(signed) John Pitton
Major 12th Regiment
&c

Pondicherry
12th February 1798

Sir,

We the undersigned Officers of His Majesty's 12th. Regiment of Foot being a Court of Enquiry held by order of Colonel Aston on the 24th. of January last and continued by adjournments until this day the 12th. instant, having fully examined the Evidences produced before them and maturely considered every circumstance relative to a rumour of a mutinous combination between the Privates of the 12th. Regiment and the Horse Company artillery, at the Mount, are of opinion that no such combination was started as fully appears by the Great Number of Men whom they examined & inspecting the business when one and all declared their entire ignorance and expressed the greatest abhorrence and detestation at being suspected of such a Mutinous proceeding saying was in their power and dearest friend or Relation, they would come forward without fee or Reward and make every discovery in their power that no such imputation might be thrown on the Corps at large, and

every

Josiah Wibbe Esqr.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a letter from Major Patton and another from Captain Officers of His Majesty's 11th Regiment that composed a Court of inquiry which sat in Manchester to Colonel Patton — Three Prisoners were intended to have been sent to the Board of Officers but did not arrive till their proceedings were closed — as they are deemed of consequence so far as they relate to the disposition of some of his majesty's Regiments, I am desired to send them to you for the purpose of their being adjoined to the proceedings of the Board now before Government —

I am
Sir,
your most Obedient &
humble Servant
(Signed) John Maitland
Majr of Officers
Colonel

Mahone
16th February 1778

that they wanted they fired a second time they ordered them
on them seeing the third he said on her the Colonel
or General Come to them and said they should have every
thing they wanted this Evidence further says that Butler took
almost all the Ammunition of the Guard to the amount of
Six or Seven Pagodas that Thomas Walker of Captain
Moores Company desired him that when the Ammunition
from him that Butler took a bottle of Porter and hid it in his
Breast that the Evidence took it also from him & Carried
out of the Tent.

James Brown of the Vacant Company says that
on Sunday the Twenty Eight ultimo a Man of the
Mount Artillery he believes his name is Butler came into
Tent of the Vacant Company to whom there was a Bottle of
Porter, he said the Regiment were great Fools that
they did not Stand up more for their Rights as the
Sepoys had done that they had brought their Pieces to
Common and presented them against their Officers door
that the first two they did not Mind but after fired
the Third shot the General Came to them and said they
should have any thing they wanted. The Evidence further
says that Butler stole a bottle of Porter from Thomas
Hennessy which he Concealed under his Breast he also
says Butler attempted to steal Hennessys Purse.

Thomas Walker of Captain Moores Company says
that on Sunday the Twenty Eighth ultimo Butler a Gunner of
the Coast Artillery Came into a Tent of the Vacant Company
he said they had gone there Cause they should and that they
got every thing they wanted, the Evidence saw him take the
Money out of Hennessys Purse he has also saw Hennessy take
a Bottle of Porter from him.

Thomas Hennessy of the Vacant Company
says that on Sunday the Twenty Eighth ultimo a Gunner of the Coast
Artillery Came into a Tent belonging to the same Company as
the Deponent the Evidence heard him say that there were

Sepoys

going to Town out again for more Ammunition that Circumstance were not sufficient, that they were determined to have more if they could possibly get it & the General offered them any thing they wanted if they would return Immediately.—

James Collins of the same Company says that on Sunday the Twenty Eighth Ultimo Butler of the Coast Artillery came into a Tent of the same Company the Evidence heard him say that they soon three Guns and that they intended to turn out again for more Lights that the General told them any thing they requested they should get.—

An extract from the proceedings of a Court of Enquiry held on the 12th Inst.

Signed W Hoare Aston

Lieut. 12th Regt.

A true Copy

Ethan Malcolm

Lieut 12th Regt Commanding Officer

No 14.

Regiment

On Examination of a Court of Enquiry held by order of Colonel Aston on the 24th Ultimo Camp at Stanmadon February 3d 1798 before of Petition Mears vs Brewer.

Serjeant Hodson of the Vacant Company says that on Sunday the 21st ultimo Jeremiah Butler of the East Artillery came with the Unit where he was to see Thomas Brewery of the same Company the Evidence gave him Leave to buy some Porter while they were drinking he heard them begin a discourse with Brewery and say they had a fine Row at the Mount they had Cartridges Drew Guns against their Officers and had got what they wanted, but were obliged to fire three Guns before the General would Comply with what they wanted. That the first they fired was for an Insignification another was the second but the third the General came to terms. The Evidence further says that when Thomas Brewer paid for the Porter he laid down his purse Jeremiah Butler took it up and emptied it into his own at the same time he Conveyed a Bottle of Porter in his breast and was going off with it he saw Brewer take the Porter from him and he heard that Thomas Walker told Brewery if he did not look sharp his Money would be gone for Jeremiah Butler of the Artillery had got it all into his hand The Evidence further says that Butler said you had stood up for your Rights as we have done you would have been Obliged enough and got every thing you wanted —

Thomas Brewery of the Vacant Company says that on Sunday the 21st ultimo the said Jeremiah Butler of the East Artillery near the Mount at Encampment to Evidence took him out to the Unit to give him some Porter, he began to talk concerning the Disturbance they had at the Encampment said he fired a Gun and their Officers would not give them what

asked

Appendix No. 13

Return of Men of his Majestys 74 Regement who have been on Pass at the Mount since Disembarkation at Madras the 15th December 1797 –

Companies	Names	From	To	Remarks
Majors	Peter Archd. Nitte	9th January	11th Janl. 98	To look after his Girl who had run away.
Light Infantry	George Robertson	31st Decr. 1797	2d. Janl. – 98	To receive Clothing & half Mounting due from the 1st Batt. Artillery –
	Archd. Mc Donald	9th January	11th Janl. 98	To see Dance Ratchett his first Cousin of the 2d. Battn. artillery
Captain Patk. Campbell	Rond. Mc Donald	10th January	12th Janl. 98	one of the 74th Drafts to see Regmt. a fifer 1st Battn. Artillery on Bla. acquaintance.
Captain Aystones	Thomas North	19th January	15th January 98	To see Samuel Throsmale 1st Battalion Artillery on no particular business. –

(Signed) Rodk. Mc Leod
Ld. Adjutant 74th Regiment

A true Copy
John Maslen
Sup. to the Board

13

Appendix N°13 —

To Lieut.t Colonel Shawe 1st

Commanding H. M. 74 Regt.

Sir

It having reached our Ears that you are summoned to attend the board of Officers who are now sitting at the Presidency, for the purpose of investigating into the Causes of the late Disgraceful transactions at the Mound, and conceiving that you may be called on to deliver your Sentiments respecting the Conduct of the Regiment, on that occasion which we understand has been most undeservedly implicated ——

We feel ourselves called on in Justice to the Men, to declare our firm belief, that the reports which were in Circulation to their prejudice had no foundation in truth; Our confidence arises from our perfect knowledge of the Men, the steps we took to discover any symptoms of Mutiny and the indignation which they themselves expressed on being told, they were suspected of having held a Correspondence with the People at the Mound, of a Nature which would for ever have attached infamy to their Characters as Men & Soldiers — At the request, and in the Name of the Officers at present with the regiment — I have the honor to be

Sir —

Your most Obed.t Servt

H. Wallace —

Major 74 Regt.

Hulagabad
7 February 1796.

A true Copy

John Malcolm Maj.y Aide Genl.

17

Appendix N°41

Return of the Detail of the 1st Battalion of Artillery as it stood on the 15th of January 1790

St. Thomas's Mount 7th February 1790	Sergeants	Corporals	Gunners	Drummers	Matrosses	Total
British and Natives	17	16	26	14	179	252
Foreigners	3	4	1	"	107	115
Total	20	20	27	14	286	367

Signed J Lavon Lt & Commg. 1st Battn Artly

A true Copy John Matcham Secy to the Board

PREVIOUS PAGE IS BLANK

11

Appendix N°. 10.

Return of the Non Commissioned Officers and Private Men of the 2nd Battalion of Artillery Present in the Cantonments on the Night of the 15th January 1790

Mount 1st February 1790	Sergeants	Corporals	Gunners	Drummers & Fifers	Matrosses	Total
Englishmen	14	13	26	12	126	193
Foreigners	5	5	4	1	54	69
Total	19	18	29	13	171	252

NB. Two Foreigners since deserted, Four Sergeants, one Gunner, and Eight Matrosses, Foreigners, have been in the Service several Years, the remainder Mentioned in the body of the return have been received from the foreign Prisons. The Drummers & Fifers are all Country born except the Drum Major and one Drummer.

David Smith
Lt. Colonel 2nd Battalion Artillery

A true Copy
John Malcolm
Sec[illegible]

10

No 9

To Major General Ross

Lieutenant Colonel Richardson

Robertson

Campbell

Close and

Gentlemen

In consequence of the approaching departure for Europe of Lieutenant Colonel Robertson the Right Honble the President in Council is pleased to relieve him from the duty of a Member of your Board, and has appointed Major Wynch, of His Majestys 86th Regiment, a Member, in his room.

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient

humble Servant

/Signed/ George Parry

Sub Sect.

Fort St. George

30th January 1790

A true Copy

John Macleod

Sect. to the Board

No 8

31

To Captain Howley

Commanding the 2nd Comp.y No 1 Batt.n Artillery

Sir

A very scandalous Attack having been made upon the Character of Corporal Lugley, the Act.g Pay Serj.t of your Company addressed to Lieut.t Col.o Lucas, we feel ourselves so far concerned as to lay before you the following vindication of his Conduct.—

Corporal Lugley has from the time he has had Charge of the Company behaved to everyone with the strictest justice The Author of our ~~Ambiguous~~ Letter has accused him of extorting Money upon interest to an Amount which of itself Confutes the validity of the Accusation.—

We therefore request you, Sir, to represent this our Conformed disavowal of his ever being guilty of any such proceedings and at the same time beg leave to say that we are & always were fully satisfied with Corporal Lugleys Conduct—

There are Men in the Battalion who have made it there business to intrude themselves upon Officers by representing the Non Commissioned Officers of the Corps in the light of Money Lenders; but so far as the Author of the above mentioned Letter Stigmatizes the Character of Corporal Lugley; we the Non Commissioned Officers & Private Men of your Comp.y do Affirm that he is innocent—

Signed by 64 Men

A true Copy

John Malcolm

Serj.t Major

No 7.

To Lieutenant Colonel Saxon

Commanding the 1st Battalion Artillery

Sir

We the Gunners and Matrosses under your immediate Command, being exceedingly sorry at the late irregularity - and those that were concerned in the Battalion were for the most part innocent of premeditated disrespect to their Officers or the discipline of the Corps. - and we do pledge ourselves, in Conjunction with our Officers, to remain as we have ever been, loyal and Zealous, to the Services of our King and the Honorable Company, Obedient to our Officers, and well wishers to the prosperity of our Country and we trust that these our Sentiments may be made known to the Commander in Chief on whom we have every reliance that the Battalion again may be restored to his good favor, hoping that what has occurred will be forgiven and forgot. -

Signed by 8 Gunners & Matrosses
for the whole of the Gunners
and Matrosses in

A true Copy

N°6

To Lieutenant Colonel George Isaacson
Commanding the 1st Battalion of Artillery

Sir

We the Non commissioned Officers under your immediate Command, being exceedingly sorry at the late irregularity. That We think it right to solemnly protest that only a part of the Battalion were Concerned, in the rash and improper proceedings. And those Concerned in our Battalion were for the most part innocent of premeditated disrespect to their Officers or the discipline of the Corps — and we do pledge ourselves in Conjunction with our Officers, to remain as we have ever been Loyal and Zealous to the Services of our King and the Honorable Company, obedient to our Officers and well wishers to the prosperity of our Country - and we trust that these our Sentiments may be made known to the Commander in Chief in whom we have every reliance that the Battalion may be again restored to his good favor, hoping that what has occurred will be forgiven and forgot. to which we sign our Names as follows. —

Signed by 46 Non commissioned

A true Copy

John Malcolm Maj. 1st Battalion

My Lord

From the enquiries which we have already made into the particulars of the late Mutiny at the Mount. We are enabled to report to Your Lordship in Council that Gunner Stubbs of the 1st Batt.n and Matrosse Clarke & Banks of the 2d have taken a principal part in the Mutiny and may be considered as Ringleaders This information we have thought it our duty to lay before Government at the present stage of our proceedings and the more so as from Circumstances which have come to our knowledge the Minds of the Men at the Mount seem to be still in a stage of agetation.

We have the Honor to be

Your Lordships Most Obedient
Humble Servants
Patrick Ross
James Robertson
A Campbell
John Cuthbertson
Barry Close

signed

a true Copy
Wm Broadbent
Secy to the Board

Major General Ross Quarters
Woolwich Common Monday the 29th
January 1798

Right Honble Lord Hobart
&c &c &c

Have the Honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
(signed) John Malcolm
Secretary to the Board of Ofs

A true copy
John Malcolm
Secretary
to the
Board

Major General Dalrymple Gardiner
Shrubbery Place
22nd January 1798

Major General Gates
&c. &c.

to no doubt, Sir, but that it was meant to put all the Troops on this Country on the same footing as to Cash Business and from Home – It was not known until after much Persuasion, that the Pleasure to Know an Indemnification for Burning & Destroying their Cloaths, and not without requiring an Assurance from me that no man should suffer hereafter for what had now happened, Assured them there should not – they resolved on Thursday on Wednesday which I said would be disagreeable to both me and them, but that I would pledge my Honour they then sent a Party of about 20 of their Body to solicit the release of Lieutenant Gonsalves, Who had been ordered on Arrest, for which is needless it is to relate, and has not been forwarded to Head Quarters, the Vessel ready Compleated with, and as soon as the Gen'l Farewell orders, which Proclamation were read to them. Had the pleasure to see Mr. Gunn brought down to the Park, with my Hat & Wig which before had been struck off, flying on one of them, and every thing else restored to order

I have the Honor to be
&c &c
Signed Thomas Gage

Secret
16 Jan'y 1798.

a true Copy Signed / George Berry
Secretary

a true Copy
Wm Malcolm Lieutenant No 1
Board of Ordnance

Cantonment Orders,
16 January 1798

Parole Albion

The Commanding Officer directs that the 1st and 2d Regiments be immediately joined by the Men of both Battalions that are Attached to future, known by orderly of Companys and will be the Men on the Barracks

The disposed with the Men to be provided with white Jackets and Trowsers as proposed by Officers Commanding Corps—

And positively directs, that those Men alone shall regularly turn out at the Roll of Inspection at the Arsenal

signed Thomas Pinckney

a true Copy
signed George Barry
Asst Adjt

a true Copy
John Mitchell
Secy to the Board of Officers

should be made, as future [illegible]
Companies themselves [illegible] They seemed
adverse enough to spend any of the Men's Earnings
on hopes of recovering the money due themselves –

I am &c &c &c
Signed Thomas Gibbs

Mount
16th January 98

A true Copy
Signed George Parry
Sub Dy

A true Copy
Thos. Malcolm
Asst Adjt Militia
Officers

No 3

Lieutenant General Harris
&c &c &c

Sir

I have had the pleasure of Communicating
to you, this Morning by Captain Malcolm that
reason to view Matters differently from what I had
done, as shortly after his departure, I had intelligence
brought me that the 2d Battalion of Artillery had
joined the 1st at their barracks, had detached a
Company to the Isle of Man and another to the
2nd Battalion Barracks drawing forth more Guns

and some Barrels of Ammunition to the front of them presently after 3 Guns were fired from the Mount and a white Pennant hoisted, from which I concluded an understanding was established between the Artillery, the Troops at Pondicherry, and Fort St George, and seizing that Moment of going upon the Parade, to know their present resolution I found it necessary to concede to their wish in such Matters as they considered Regimental - viz. as the mode of distributing Tea &c. ordering the second payment of the present Allowance to be given, dispensing with their furnishing themselves with white Jackets, and Straw hats, and lastly, regulating the Pay of Artificers of Company on the exact Terms detailed in the inclosed Regulations - In holding Conversation with the Seven Sepoys the most resolute among them, one Man having at the very outset of the Business indeed was followed up by another with the increase of the Officers allowances, Tough no Attention had been given to that Head by the Government, and it was then, I now recollect, that the Straw Hat, although it was not any part of their Grievances as stated to me - seemed to be a Contemplation with the Men - even Glad to prepare an Uniform Hat like the Europeans

No 3

My dear General

I went in front of our Barracks this morning, and found about 100 of our Men, with three Guns, drawn up in front of them, for not a Man of the 2d Battalion appeared to know any thing of the Matter, at least they have not taken no part, I called some of them, by name, to state their Complaints, assuring them, they should have every redress in my power. they told me they required "a free Bazar", & they have been led to think, from the late Order, they were to have provisions at half price, I told them the Bazar was already as free as ever, nor if it were otherwise, should certainly Make it so -

They would have their pay on the 1st of the Month -

I told them it was impossible to keep up the Numbers the Law in the Month some time, and it not be Managed to the next Month they were -

They would have their Grievances drawn up signed on Thursday - I told them it was impossible it could be done in such Haste as Thursday appears to be time enough -

Read

No 2.

4

No 3

11

My Dear General

I found every thing tolerably quiet on the Mountain on my arrival, and do not mean to go near the Barracks until Morning — From what I saw when the Flag of Truce went in, I am sure the Enemy's Army is the reason, which has detained them so much that they require, three days Provisions together — In the Morning I shall send it, and have no doubt of every thing being settled properly

Sam

I am
Dear Sir
Yours &c
signed Thomas Pasley

a true Copy
signed George Berry
Asst Secy

a true Copy
Tom Malcolm Secy to the Board of Officers

General Gates proceeded immediately to the Court, and on finding Matters fully proved, he gave Notice of such being the Case to the Commanding on Chief, in a private Note No 1, which he received at a late hour that Night.

Early next Morning Captain Malcolm repaired to the Mound, by desire of the Commanding on Chief, to enquire how Matters stood, he found that Affairs were as stated in a Letter No 2 which was given by General Gates, to him, to deliver

Captain Malcolm was again directed to proceed to the Mound, to know clearly how matters stood, but was met on the Road, by General Gates who came to Report, on his own, the termination of the Business as recorded

The accompanying Nos 3 and 4 are true Copies of Letters, which passed, and Steps that were taken by General Gates.

True Extracts

Signed George Tracy

Aid de Camp

a true Copy

John Malcolm

Secy to the Board of Officers

№ 1.

(2) 8 2 7

Details of a Narrative of the Mutiny of the Artillery at the Grand Parade on the 15th and 16th January 1798

Last night a report was made to the Commander in Chief at the Garden House where a large Company was collected that the Corps of Artillery at that post was in a State of Mutiny - Major General Gale, being in Company General Harris conversed with him on the event and in the Course of the Conversation, expressed a Conjecture that the Cause of the Disturbance was owing to the increased pay given to his Brigade of Troops at home, of which intelligence, not Officially, but through the Channel of the Public Prints had been received, and should the Corps have formed part of your Majesty's Regiment there is that although it had been received from England on the Subject of that the Commander in Chief had first seen it before [illegible] of the Day, it was the Governor in Council representing the Expediency of the Measure to the Court of Directors upon an Augmentation and also to pay over to the Brigade of Troops ordered on active Service of the Public -

Ca[illegible]

Lord as the Ship which may appear to have been
taken at that or any subsequent, and secondly to Enquire
of Wood, of Shew Lane, the Persons which
were employed to some of the Magistrates Assistants
in Consideration, or matter an intended Combination,
to be the Subject

Captain Malcolm has been appointed
to be your Secretary

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient
humble Servant
signed Jno Jervis
Sir H Good

Sir J. Jervis
19th January 1798.

A true Copy
John Malcolm
Secy to the Board of Officers

List of Papers in the Appendix

	No
Letter from the Secretary of Government to the Board	1
Extract from Commanders in Chief's Narrative	2
Letter from Major General Gillespie to the Commander in Chief	3
Letter from the Secretary to the Board to Major General Gillespie	4
Letter from the Board to Government	5
Letter from the Superintending Officer of the 1st Battalion to Lieutenant Colonel Lawson	6
Letter from the Governor & Magistrates of Do.	7
Letter from the Rev.d of his Company to Captain Hawley	8
Letter from Government appointing Major Hynde to this Reference	9
Colonel Smith's Return 2.d Battalion	10
Colonel Lawson's Return 1.st Battalion	11
Major Wallace's Letter to Colonel Shaw	12
Return of Men of the 7th Regt. who had been Absent on Picket at the Mount since the Disembarkation with Letter accompanied to the Board by Lieutenant Colonel Shaw	1.
An Extract from the Proceedings of a Court of Enquiry held on the 12th Regiment submitted by Colonel Acton	2

enable me to substantiate any Charge against Butler, I released him and told him to turn him out of the Lines

It has since appeared by the Evidence of several Men given to a Court of Enquiry that Butler held a Mysterious Conversation to the Men of the 12th Regt. I submit an Extract of their proceedings which will give the Board full information. Vide Appendix No 4

(4) Board Here are their proceedings.

Patrick Ross M.G. Pens
Hud. Campbell Lieut Col
Ja. Mc Pherson Lieut
J. M. Clure Lieut & Adjt
W. Wynyard Aide de

Lieut Malcolm Secretary to the Board of Officers. —

Appendix

to the

Proceedings of the Board of Officers

of which

Major General Ross

is

President.

enable me to substantiate any charge against Butler, I released him and told him to turn him out of the Lines.

It has since appeared by the Evidence of several men given to a Court of Enquiry, that Butler held improper Conversation to the Men of the 12th. I subjoin an Extract of their proceedings which will give the Board full information. Vide Appendix. No. 11

(To) The Board here closes their Proceedings.

Patrick Allen M.G. Pres.

Thos. Campbell Lieut. Col.

Jno. Maclean Jun. Capt.

W. Elliot Lieut.

J. Moncrieff Capt.

John Malcolm Secretary to the Board of Officers.

Appendix

to the

Proceedings of the Board of Officers

of which

Major General Ross

is

President.

imputed to them, To shew the Board entirely the Officers of the 74th are of the same opinion on this Subject with myself, I submit to the Board a Letter I yesterday received from Major Wallace on their Behalf vide Appendix No. 12.

Q:
Did Major General Hale communicate with you either on the Morning of the 16th or Evening of the 15th ultimo respecting the State of the Regiment at the Mount?

A.
He did not, I was surprised to hear the three Guns about 9 o'Clock; I heard there was a disturbance at the Mount, but did not know the Lengths to which it had proceeded, the Men of the 74th who were among themselves on different Quarters as to take no notice of them, nor did I for a Moment interrupt their following their Amusements

Q.
What is the distance between Pondamallie & the Mount?

A.
About 7 Miles.

Q
Can you call to your recollection any Men having been absent on Leave to the Mount from your Corps -

A.
The Return which I submit to the Board will shew the Men that what period they have been on leave. The Private Vide Appendix No. 13 / Donald Mc Donald who was there Nearest to the Period of the Mutiny speaks very little English, & has lastly any Acquaintance with the 74th which he had then only for 12 Days - Banks who I understand

10

is said to have passed the Night of the 10th in the Artillery Barracks with his Brother, was the whole of that Night a prisoner in the Rear Guard for being Drunk, & had only that Morning been dis-charged the Hospital.-

The Board adjourned till Saturday the 10th at 10 o'Clock in the Morning.

Secretary's Quarters
Saturday the 10th February 1798

The Board having met agreeable to adjournment
President and Members all present.

Colonel [illegible] commanding His Majesty's 12th Regiment being called the Board, the following question is put.

Q.

The Board have been informed, that a Man of the Name of Butler, belonging to the Artillery went to your Regiment while near the Mount on the 28th ult. & held improper Language in your Lines, Inform the Board of what you know - the Subject.

A.

On the Morning of the 28th [illegible] Lieut of my Corps came to me & brought Butler Matross of the Artillery along with him whom I accused of holding sinitory language in the hearing of the Men to some of the Men of the Regiment, respecting the late Meeting at the Mount - I confined Butler on the Sergeants Report, & the Men who he mentioned being in my Company, on finding from examining them, that they did not corroborate the Sergeants Evidence sufficiently to

enable

the Board if you have heard General Cuels tell the Men that the Commander in Chief had it in contemplation to take Steps for their being placed on the increased pay the same as the King's Troops at Home?

A.

I heard none of them speak about their pay previous to the General's declaration, after that was made I do several of the Men speak to the effect stated in the Question.

Q.

Did you previous to the declaration of General Cuels hear any of the Men complain of the Smallness of their pay, and that altho' the Officers had been placed on encreased Allowances nothing had been done for the poor Men?

A.

I cannot say, I remarked they were.

Q.

Did you observe that the Irishmen in the Corps were particularly active during the Meeting on the Right of the 15th Inst. Morning of the 16th ult?

A.

So far from it that I distinctly from the first an anonymous Letter that was given in to Col Lawson previous to the Meeting accusing some Pay Sergeant of such a practice — the Standing orders of the Corps positively prohibit such a practice.

Q.

Has it been a practice that has ever come to your knowledge, that the Pay Sergeants of the 1st Battn of Artillery have lent Money to the Men upon their pay?

A.

I do not know that they were.

Q.

Do you know if the 2d Battn were engaged in the Meeting before they officially joined the 1st Battn on the Morning of the 16th ult?

1.

Has any Circumstance come to your knowledge either before, during, or since the Meeting on the Night of the 15th & Morning of the 16th inst. that in any Shape explains the Cause of that occurrence?

A

I do not know of any Circumstance that explains the Cause of the Trouble.

2.

Do you know of any Combination or intended Combination between the Artillery & any of his Majesty's Corps?

A

No, I do not, I fear to Rumours which I disbelieved, – the Drove – so as soon the News on the Night of the 15th had expressed to me Apprehensions of the 74th coming ago not them –

3.

Have you observed that the Men of the 1st Battalion have been irregular for any length of time previous to the Meeting on the Night of the 15th inst. so as to occasion their being Confined & brought to Punishment, in any considerable Number.

A.

Desertion has been very frequent. Such Men as have been Confined for Irregularities since Col. Saxon came to the Command of the Corps has with a very few exceptions been brought to Punishment.

Lieut Col Shawe Commg His Majesty's 76th Regt being called upon the following Questions were put to him.

2.

Has any Circumstance come to your knowledge that leads you to think there was any Correspondence, Combination or intended Combination between His Majesty's 76th Regt under your Command, & the Artillery at the Barrack, relating in any Shape to the Meeting which took Place in the latter Corps on the Night of the 15th & Morning of the 16th ultimo.

A

After the most particular Inquiry that could be made by myself & the Officers of the 76th Regiment, I can with truth answer there was not any Correspondence, Combination or intended Combination, such Rumours having been spread occasioned the Men of the 76th unanimously to express in their indignation at the Report & the detestation in which they held the conduct which had been so falsely

Continued.

irregular in their behavior for any
slight offence whatever to the Party
so as to occasion there being confined
& brought to punishment any
considerable Number?

Q.

You have said that you have been
restricted in some instances by Major
General Grils; In this as you allude
to the circumstance only of your be-
-ing obliged to submit the proceed-
-ings of Battalion Courts Martial
for his approbation, or do you
allude to any other circumstance?

Q.

Did General Grils consult with you
on the measures he proposed adopting
at any time from your entering the
Barracks on the Night of the
fatal Mutiny were subsequent to the
Morning of the 16th inst?

Q.

Have you had any opportunity of
knowing the Motives that induced
that Grils to desire the Officers would re-
-main at the Quarters when he went the
last time to Speak to the Men on
the Morning of the 16th inst?

been guilty of irregularities more
particularly of Desertion, I have
inflicted punishment as far as my
Authority extended, but in some cases
I have been restricted by Major
General Grils, who required that the
proceedings & Sentence of every Regi-
-mental Court Martial should be shewn
to him before it is carried into execu-

A.

I only allude to the Circumstance
of General Grils having restricted
me from punishing several Men
who have been sentenced by a Regi-
-mental Court Martial, and who
I thought ought to have been pu-
-nished; Deserters are always put on
the Main Guard when apprehended,
sometimes delivered over to be tried
by a Regimental Court Martial.

A.

No, he did not.

A.

I cannot speak positively I con-
-jecture that he was partly induced to
do so from the Report that Grils
made at the Moment, which was to the
best of my Recollection, that the Men
wished to speak with the General.

Q.

Has any Alarm been given to you this Night, either before, during or since the Ball, of the Firing of the Hotels, Barracks, Huts or any other Place the Cause of Disturbance?

A.

No.

Q.

Do you know if any of the Disaffected were engaged in the Riot, previous to, during the Firing, or since the Destruction of the Hotels?

A.

No, I do not.

Q.

Do you know of any Combination or secret Communication between the Militia of the Province, & any of his Majesty's Regiments?

A.

No, I do not know but from report. Suspects, to which I gave no credit, as nothing from to be Expected from Militia to assist Regulars in the Artillery to arm their own Privateers.

The Board adjourned till to Morrow at Eight

Secretary's Quarters,
Thursday 8th February 1798

The Board having met agreeably to Adjournment.

Present as before.

Captain Lieut. Sir Jno. Jordan Bart being called upon & sworn & Question as put.

Q.

Proceed from your Passage from Quebec to Halifax & the Period General Gale commenced & the Damage it did the Ship under your

A.

Major General Gale set in the middle of August & continued for three days. The Ship I commanded was at Anchor in Halifax Harbour & was

Wednesday the 7th February 1797.

The Board having met at the Secretary's Quarters agreeably to Adjournment.

President & Members all present.

Major General Leith being called upon, the following Questions were put

Q.

Do you know of any Combination or intended Combination between the Artillery at the Present & any of the Regiment's Regiments &.

A.

No I do not further than from Rumours, and I have been particularly attentive not to state to the Board any Hearsay Evidence.

Q.

From what Circumstances were you induced to believe the Contents of the Anonymous Letter given to Lieut. Col. Saxon were true?

A.

From the Circumstance of the Letter itself being so very particular, I could not bring myself to believe it a fabrication.

Q.

Do you know of any of the Men of the 2nd Battalion were engaged in the Mutiny at the Present prior to that Corps joining the 1st Battalion about 8 o'Clock on the Morning of the 16th Inst?

A.

I know nothing of myself

Lieut. Colonel Saxon being called upon the following Questions were put

Q.

Can you inform the Board of the Detail of the 2nd Battalion at the Present on the 15th or 16th Inst. & the Number of Foreigners in that Detail?

A.

Colonel Saxon submits to the Board a Return, Appendix No. 11.

Q.

Do you inform General Leith prior to the 1st of the Grounds you had for believing the Contents of the Anonymous Letter?

A.

I did to the best of my Recollection either on the Evening of the 14th or Morning of the 15th.

Q:

The Price of Provision in the Bazar is made a Cause of Grievance by the Men; Pr. Read therefore with you to inform them, whether the Price in the Mount Bazar appear to you to have been unreasonable & whether Articles of Provision in the Bazar have particularly risen in Price of late?

A:

As I have not been acquainted with the prices of articles, I cannot form any Comparison to judge. I have heard it mentioned by Individuals of my own Family, that several Articles were dear at the Mount, but paid no attention to it, as I never had any Complaint from the Men; The Article of Bread I know is cheaper since the 16th in the Mount Bazar, being now reduced to the Madras price.

Q:

Has it been usual for the Artillery to wear a Linen Jacket and Straw Hat, made up by Stoppages from their P.

A:

It has not, on the present occasion they were ordered to have the Clothing in wear, as we apprehended Winter Clothing would not be served out before September. Colonel Smith first suggested the Step to me, & I told him I should readily assent if it met with General Gills's approbation, which I found it did in the fullest degree. The Stoppage did not exceed 3 Fanams each Man, they were allowed three Months for payment, & could not possibly be distressed by it. I had by some means a stronger proof of their ability to pay for the Jackets, than my receiving Applications from the Men for more than Half the Number which were given out for which not a Fanam had been stopped.

Q:

Did it appear to you that the Men of the first Battalion had been

A:

Since I have been in Command of the 1st Battalion many of the Men have been

Stated already his suspicions to Mr. Jones
– I saw Sclarke when General Gale
was speaking to the Hon, reading the
Martial Police Regulations fixed on a Board

2.

You were Captain of the Day on the
16th of the 16th – Did General Gale
after the Return to the Encampment
send for you, make any enquiries
upon Duty, what Reports, Foreigners
any Arms, or communicated with you in
any way whatever respecting the
State of the Cantonment?

A.

He neither sent for me nor communicated with me in any shape what-
ever relative to the State of the
Cantonment.

2.

Did you know any Plan of a Conspi-
racy or intended Combination between
the Caffres and any of His Majesty's
Regiments?

A.

I know nothing about it except
from Rumours.

The Board having called upon Lieutenant Charlton
the following Questions are put

2.

Do you know the Names of persons of
any Rank who were Neighbours or fre-
quently Asked among the Rioters on
the Night of the 15th or Morning of
the 16th inst.?

A.

The Conduct of Blacks on the Morn-
ing of the 16th struck me so much
that I asked them at the time of the
most Sacrificial performers, His An-
swer was that the Hottentots, that he
had endeavored to explain to General
Gale, who had asked him some Ques-
tions the Man evaded, I saw him
afterwards Parade the two Battalions
to their Barracks after the Rioters
were ordered in their Lines By Ge-

him gave him a Hold to them, Rank was one of the party that a Boa operation to Crucial Gibb to release Lieut Brindley and O'Kane was the man who made use of the expression "He cannot return to our Barracks he that Gentleman is released" after I had said in my Barracks.

Foster was the leading Felt of the party, if I recollect right. I cannot mention any other who could answer to.

Q.

Do you know of any Combination, or intended Combination, between the Artillery & any of the Regiments Regiments?

I do not except from the Morning of the 16th I have never heard of their being traced to any Authority?

2.

Do you believe the 2nd Batt. were engaged in the Mutiny before they broke publicly out on the Morning of the 16th, or, Do you think there was any preconcerted plan between the two Battalions?

I do not believe they were engaged before they broke publicly out. I do not think any preconcerted plan was laid between the two Battalions. What confirms me in this opinion is that when the party of the 2d Battn came down on the Night of the 15th there were Officers of the 2d Battn Barracks and some of them were admitted the Barrack Yard, but not until the Lt. showed a Disposition to [illegible]

The Board adjourned till Wednesday Morning at 10 o'Clock at the Guardroom

should furnish themselves with an Undress Coat & Jacket. The last Amounts to about 38 Pence each Man, which the Men were to be stopped for in the course of 3 Months. I was of opinion that the Stoppage could not be a Hardship to them, as at all Events it could only limit them a little in their daily quantity of Arrack, & I must say that I was further induced to Dispt the Jacket and Hat in question as I observed the Same were also worn the last Year by the Men of His Majesty 73rd Regiment when lately stationed at the Mount, their appearance having been particularly neat & Soldierlike, and I beg to add, that so far from thinking it a Hardship the Men were at the time anxious I should get a great quantity more of Nankeen - In calling back the Nankeen in compliance with the Commander in Chiefs Order of the 16th, I found that not half of it was returned, the Men entreating to keep the cost 9d per Jacket for it.

A.

Colonel Smith submits the Return Appendix No 9

2.

Pray you inform the Board of the Strength of the 22nd Battalion at Madras on the 15th and the Number of Foreigners then in it.

The Board having called upon Captain Tanner, the following Questions are put –

Q.

Do you know the Names of persons of any Men that voted Rangers or particularly active during the Mutiny in the Night of the 15th or Morning of the 16th

A.

As the Parole Oblivion was granted by General Lisle, I was not aware of its propriety to answer such a Question, but as it is by this Board who are in knowledge of all the Circumstances, I proceed to answer after submitting this previous Remark, I do not mark any person on the Night of the 15th. I observed in the Morning of the 16th that the leading File of the first party that joined the Mutineers from the 1st Battalion, were two Men of my Company Privates Banks & Wells When I was up to speak to this party to persuade them from joining the Mutineers of the 1st Battalion, Banks was the Soldier who answered me in the words I have already stated to the Board, Privates Clarke was with this party about the Gate of it, there were several Foreigners of my Company also with it – about 8 o'Clock when a party came to seize the Gun, a Man of the Name of Durant a Foreigner in Captain Campbell's Coy in the 1st Battn was the Man I think threatened making a Stab at me, Clarke on this occasion appeared to take a lead & was the foremost Man

Q.

Have you any reason to believe the 2d Battalion were engaged in the Mutiny previously to their publickly breaking out on the Morning of the 16th ultimo, or do you think there was any preconcerted Plan between the two Battalions?

A.

I do not believe the 2d Batt. were engaged previous to their joining on the Morning of the 16th, some Communication must, no doubt, have existed prior to that event. I am confident there was no preconcerted plan between the Battalions before the 15th, as a further proof of this, I know when the Drum beat to Arms on the Night of the 15th ultimo, that the Men of the 2d seemed perfectly at a loss to account for the cause.

Q.

Were you in the Circle when Lieutenant Gale acceded to the Demands of the Men on the Morning of the 16th ult?

A.

I was not but came afterwards to Major Genl Hicks at his desire, & received his Orders to send for the Pay Sergeants of the 2d Battalion, & was directed to give Orders for the 1st & second payments to be made to the Men of the Corps. I commanded

Q.

Have you had any opportunity of knowing Major Genl Hicks's motive for desiring you to remain at his Quarters, while he went to Concourse with the Mutineers in the last instance?

A.

No I have not.

Q.

Did Genl Hicks consult with you at any time on the Measures that should be

A.

No I do not recollect that he did

Q.

Did Captain Tennier report to you a Deficiency of Mosk Cartridges in his Company, the Morning of the 16th. instant?

A.

Yes he did & I told him his Comp.y should pay for every one that was missing; at next Review they were as complete as other Companies.

Q.

Did you report the Circumstance to General Peile?

A.

I did not, not judging it necessary.

Q.

The prices of Provisions in the Bazar is made an Article of Grievance in the Paper delivered to you by the Men of the 1st Batt.n the Board desire you to inform them, whether the prices in the Bazar appear to you to have been unreasonable, or whether Articles of Provision in the Bazar have particularly risen in Price of late?

A.

I cannot speak particularly in answer, as far as I can judge, from the Articles for my own Consumption, I know no reason for Complaint: the Men have now & then said they were dear in the Bazars, I have wished to go to Madras to purchase Articles for them: which however I generally object to as I wish to go down to the Country more than any thing else.

Q.

Has it been usual for the Artillery to wear a Linen Jacket & Straw Hat, made up by Stoppages from their pay?

A.

No. It has not been usual in the Batt.n of Artillery. The Old Hats of the Corps were to be worn instead of their being used at Morning Parade and other Common Duties, but as the Coats now in use were late in being delivered last year, I desired that the same could last this Year, with the view of wearing the Clothing now in use with the Helmet I hoped that the Hats

Vide.

Colonel Irish being called before the Board, the following Questions are put.

Q.

Do you know the Names or Persons of any Men that were Ringleaders or particularly active during the Riot, on the Night of the 15th or Morning of the 16th Instt?

A.

I cannot mention the Names or particularize the persons of any Men, that came under my observation as taking a leading part during the Insurrection, I have heard since, from the Report of others, of several Men who are now in Confinement being very active, and have no doubt, from many Circumstances which have since come to my Knowledge, that Clarke, Banks and Hart were Ringleaders.

Q.

In reporting to Major Genl. Hall on his return to the Cantonment, did you request him of Lieut. Charlton having received a Blow from the 1st Battalion; and that the 1st Battn had been under an Alarm that Troops were coming against them, & that they had drawn up some Guns with Ammunition Waggons in front of their Barracks.

A.

I did.

Q.

Do you report to Major General Hall that the 1st Battalion were steady & Orderly and might be depended on?

A.

I reported them peaceable & quiet in their Barracks & perfectly obedient to Orders, and then under Charge of the Officer of the Day.

Q.

Can you recollect mentioning to Maj.r Gals on his return, the Circumstance of Captain Tanner, Capt.n of the Day, having forced his Co.y from the 2.d Battalion to the support of the main Guard, & of their obedience to the order.

A.

I did not think it necessary, as I had disapproved at the time of Captain Tanners calling out the Company without my Orders.

Q.

After Major Gen.l Gals returned to the Cantonment, you received a Report that part of the 1.st Batt.n were moving with Guns to the 2.nd Battalions Barracks to compel that Corps to join. Did you ascertain whether there was any foundation for this Report, and after you received it did you communicate it to Major General Gals?

A.

I have before mentioned I did not believe the Report, nor did I ascertain any Grounds for it. I went to my own Barracks, but made no Communication to General Gals, as I thought the Report was groundless

Q.

When you reported to Major Gen.l Gals on his return to the Cantonment did he appear or express himself satisfied with the Conduct you had observed during his absence?

A.

I have no reason to suppose he was dissatisfied, as he did not express himself so.

Q.

Do you know of any Combination or intended Combination, between the Artillery & the Brown Bess of the Majesty's Regiments?

A.

No I do not, such rumours have been in Circulation, but I can have no Reason to give credit to them.

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it any Duty to report to General Grelle, I was further desired to do so from hearing that three Guns were to be fired from the Top of the Mount as a Signal for the 7th. and that these Men who had been reported to have arrived from that Regiment had said that it would be at the Mount in so many Minutes of the Guns were fired – One of the Guns fired as I was leaving the Parade.

A.

Can you inform the Board of any particular Man or Men, from whom you learnt any of the Reports, relative to the 7th. you have stated?

I cannot recollect any particular Man or Men, but heard it from various Persons.

Q.

Was your Report of the Circumstance to General Grelle solely founded on the General Clamour of the Mutineers?

Q.

Did you yourself see, or do you know any person that saw any Men of the 7th. at the Mount during the day of the 30th. ultimo?

A.

I neither saw any myself or know of any person that did.

Q.

Do you know of any Embroilment or violent Altercation between the Artillery at the Mount and any of the Regiment Re-mained.

A.

Of none, further than from Rumour, I heard the Men when at the Barracks on the Morning of the 30th. say, there was an Indisposition

reduced

Letters from the 7th. and that Letter had passed, and I think the 12th. was received.
Some Men said they would shew me these Letters, but this being the Moment at which the Guns fired, I thought no time was to be lost in repairing to General Hall, and therefore could not stay.

2.
Have you at any time seen any of these Letters, or do you know of any person who ever did see any of them?

A.
I never saw any of them, and know of no person that has.

2.
Do you know any other Circumstance to form the Idea of Letters having been received from the 7th. excepting the Assertions of the Multitude at the particular period you have specified?

A.
Upon oath

2.
Do you know the Names or persons of any Men that were Ringleaders, or particularly active on the Night of the 15th. or Morning of the 16th. ult. during the Routine at the Mount.

A.
I know nothing of that Kind on the 15th. but on the Morning of the 16th. ult. I remarked Hamblin as particularly active, several Foreigners whose Names I do not know appeared to be very forward & very insolent.

2.
Could you point out the Persons of the Foreigners you have alluded to?

A.
I am not confident that I could

can conjecture is some Emissaries from the other Battalion having prevailed upon them to join in the Course of next Morning

A.

No: I do not:

Do you know of any Combination between the Artillery at the Barrack and any of his Majesty's Corps?

2.

Were the Ball Cartridges taken from the Men previous to the Blank Cartridges being given them for the Fete de Joy on the Queens Birth day?

A.

From those Men of Captain Clarks Company that paraded and had Ball Cartridges in their Boxes I saw them taken, some of them said they had lost them, others said, not knowing of the Order they had left them in the Barracks.

2.

Do you know of any disturbance having happened, or of any discontents existing among the Men at the Barrack since the 16th ultimo?

A.

I have heard many Rumours particularly at the time the 74th Marched through the Barrack, but nothing that I can refer to any Authority, an Anonymous Letter was received and opened by Lieut. Stone requesting the Release of Quarter Master Sergeant Sarsfield - the Letter expressed such was the wish of their Officer or something to that Effect -

Q.

Have you observed since the victory, any thing particular in the dress or manner of the Men on the Ground?

A.

The Conduct of the Men of the second Battalion, since the Morning has been to my observation as respectful and orderly as ever it was.

The Board Adjourned till 9 o'clock today next at the Major General Ross's Garden Chowbry Plains Monday the 5th of February 1798.

The Board having met agreeably to Adjournment, President and Members all present.

Lieut. Andrew Geils being called before the Board, the following Questions are put.

Q.

Did you report to Major General Geils in the Morning of the 16th ult. that two Men of the 7th Regiment were arrived at the Mound, and had been received by the Men of the Artillery with three Cheers?

A.

I spoke to Major General Geils on the Morning of the 17th something which he then appeared

Q.

Did you see the Men of the 7th, or others, insulted or ill used, or did you make the above mentioned Report?

A.

I saw one Man of the 7th that being near the Barracks when the other Officers had gone to Breakfast I heard a Cry repeated from one end of the Barracks to the other, that two Men of the 7th were carried & this Cry was immediately followed by three Cheers, a Circumstance I thought

A.

Do you know of any disturbance having happened, or of any discontents existing among the Men at the Barrack since the 15th Inst.

Nothing occurs to me that is very material, at the same time I think it proper to mention to the Board, that on the 20th Instant concerning Men that had passed that was the Day on which the 3rd payment should be made. I sent for the Pay Serjeant and desired him to bring the Pay Abstract. He told me, that the Men in consequence of hearing some other Companies were getting their pay on that Day, told him they did not wish to have their pay till the 23d or 24th. I stated the Circumstance to Lieut. Colonel Lascoy, who wrote me back, that as soon as the Arrangement made by the Men for Non Com. Officers to Comply by all means, and I accordingly did not issue it till the 23d or 24th when the Men requested it.

6th

Have you observed any thing particular in the Air or Manners of the Men at the present time?

No Circumstance of such a Nature has come within my Knowledge, so as to induce me either to take Steps myself or give information to my Superiors, but I certainly have remarked an Air of Triumph in the Men. I am however aware, that at such a period with such an Event, the imagination may be a

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to give consequence to every trifling circumstance. My belief was heightened by Hearing from Colonel Saxon, that a Man of the Company I command, whose Name is Butler, went on the 23d. at Night into the Lines of the 12th Regiment, and boasted of the exploits of the Artillery, and what they had accomplished by having their Guns provided at their Officers, and Bayonets in their Hands, and that if the 12th had any Spirit they would have the same. Some of the party who were drinking with him informed the Officer, who told them to kick him out of the Lines, which it appears they had done.

The Board having called upon Captain Lieutenant Mr. Inspie, the following Questions are proposed—

Q.

Are you in Charge of a Company?

A.

I am of Captain Clark the 2nd Battalion

Q.

Do you know if the 2d. Batt. were engaged in the Fighting before this Corps paraded out in the Morning of the 16th, or can you Conjecture the reason of their Coming?

A.

To the best of my belief the were at 8 o the Night of the 15 I was in the Barrack Square, from about 12 o'Clock till past two o'c every thing was perfectly quiet, [illegible] the Men were asleep — The only cause

Can

Q.

Do you know of any disturbance that happened among the Men of the 1st Battalion on the Day of the 13th ultimo?

A.

Ido.

Captain Burke corroborates the Evidence given by Lieut Col. Saxon & Captain Burke with respect to the Disturbances that occurred on the 13th

Q.

Do you know the Grievances stated by the Men to General Peels during the Meeting?

A.

Captain Lieut. Burke corroborates the other Evidence given on this subject, & further mentioned hearing some Murmurs about Clothing & Half a Pounding.

Q.

Were any Complaints ever made to you, & do you know of any Complaints having been made to any other Officer, relative to the Grievances the Men stated to General Peels during the Meeting previous to the Night of the 15th ultimo?

A.

No, I do not. I never received any or heard of their being made.

Q.

Has any circumstance come to your knowledge either before, during or since the Meeting on the Night of the 15th and Morning of the 16th ultimo that explains in any Shape the causes of that occurrence?

A.

The Impunity with which Crimes have been allowed to pass in the Battalion for Years back in my Opinion has been a Chief Cause of the late Meeting. In the Company I command within the last Nine Months, above 20 Desertions have occurred, most of them have been brought back but few of them punished.

Mr

Q.

Did you see Capt. Mc Donald the Adjutant Genl. of the Militia in Camp?

A.

I saw him on the 24th. and spoke to him about the Meeting.

Q.

Do you know the Board or Person of any Description who Published or circulated Notice of the Meeting?

A.

I neither know the Names or Persons of any

Q.

Was the Public of the U.S. notified or Told that a Meeting was to be held in Camp? did it appear to you the whole Battalion was then Convened, or only a Part?

A.

The Men in Meeting in Front of the Barracks only appeared to me in Part of the Battalion when I first came within view about P.M.

Q.

Was it ever to your knowledge Known that Mr. Evans Brother was engaged in the Meeting, and if so the Reasons of the Men's being Discharged?

A.

I did not know of the Men engaged prior to the Meeting. The U.S. Flag was generally understood, that they were coming with Petitions to the Barracks Orderly Room.

Q.

Do you know of any Soldier or Soldiers Citizen or Citizens Between the Soldiers Leaving the Barracks and the Public Meeting?

A.

I know of none, also that no one was sent for the Board. The Examination of Mr. Hall's Report above I saw by one of the Men's Names.

1st. A

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Do you know the Names or Persons of any Men who were Ring Leaders or particularly active at the Breaking of the Mess Hall of the 15th or Morning of the 16th

I am almost certain I saw Some of the 1st Battalion lead the Party up to the Top of the Mount I saw Foster Prathop in my Company speak to General Peel when releasing Mr Brodie out of Irons There were two Foreigners whose Persons I know very Forward one of them was particularly insolent to me, telling me in English he had 5 Pagodas a Month in this our Service, and has come here to show our Men the Gestures of the other were very menacing He spoke in a Foreign Language which I did not understand, but judged, from the Manner he was about

One of these Men, when I prevented the 2 Foreigners in my Company to take their Arms to the Barracks, ran after them and made them replace them on the Pile

A

General among the Rabbajees None of the Non Commissioned

Do the Mutiny when it first broke out appear to you to be General in the 1st Battalion or only of a part

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Q.

Was any Circumstance come to your knowledge, that made you believe the 2d Battalion were engaged in the Mutiny before they publickly broke out on the Morning of the 10th?

A.

No Circumstance came to my knowledge to make me believe so, on the contrary I heard they were perfectly ready a little before Day the Morning of the 10th — I observed five or six Men of the 2d struggle down towards the 2nd Battalion Barracks, I particularly remarked this at the time, as I was, from it, apprehensive of a Junction which shortly afterwards took place.

Q.

Do you know of any Combination or intended Combination between the Artillery and any of his Majesty's Regiments?

A.

I know of none

Q.

Do you know if any Bazar Rumours are particularly dear to the Mount?

A.

I know nothing of the Matter myself.

Captain Lieut Barker being called before the Board the following Questions are proposed.

Q.

Are you in charge of the Pay in the 5th Battalion

A.

I am of Captain Hayes 5th

company went to Lieut. Col. Upton whom I found at General Cadwalader's and reported to him all that occurred - On that day I advanced to the Officers & others who applied to me as much Money as they required, & told them if what I gave was not sufficient till the pay arrived I would give more. I know of nothing further occurring on the 15th.

Q.

Do you know what articles of grievances were stated by the Men to General Lee on the Night of the 15th or Morning of the 16th?

A.

Yes.

Captain Doyle corroborates what has already been taken down in evidence on this subject.

Q.

Were any Complaints ever made to you did you ever hear of any being made to any other officers relative to the Articles of Grievance stated previous to the 15th instant?

A.

None were ever made, nor do I know of any being made to any other officers.

Q.

Has any Circumstance come to your knowledge either before, during or since the Meeting on the Evening of the 15th and Morning of the 16th instant, that in any shape explains the Cause of that occurrence.

A.

I can only answer that as far as comes within my observation, the Non Commissioned officers are not respected, and in consequence afraid to exert that authority they should over the Men, - I have known so many instances of Men confined and by Commissioned officers,

(relieved

released without their knowledge, and alike Offenders were often sentenced, punishment it was frequently remitted - Altho' such instances have not occurred since Col. Fraser has been in Command, the effects of them in my Opinion are still felt in the Corps.

Q.

Does the want of respect to the Non-Commissioned proceed from their own bad Conduct, or from their Officers not giving them proper support?

A.

I can only answer for my own Company - The Non-Commissioned Officers are good men, and I give them support, but still they are not respected - the Qr Master Sergeant who is an excellent man has frequently told me, that when he is to give any orders or directions to the men, there is a general Clamour among them, I have told them to go to their room persons, & that I would support him, His answer was that the Irregular Spirit was so inherent that it was impossible to stop it on any one - The same Sergt was very active on the night of the 15th informing Officers of the mens Conduct & got severely Blows in execution of his Duty -

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said out who the person was, they said they had no Suspicion of ~~knowing~~ the person at the time but they knew the Corporal was disliked in the Company & Regiment & had struck them would not be informed upon by his Comrades, I enquired if they could give any reason for disliking the Corporal, they could not give any but said generally he had not a Friend in the Company, the Corporal is an excellent Non-Commissioned Officer, & I can conceive no reason for his being disliked except for doing his Duty in the strictest sense of the word - He was a short time ago appointed to do the duty of Drill Sergeant (who was in some disgrace) on the latter being replaced in his Station, the Commanding Officer approbation of Corporal Lefroy's conduct while he had acted was published in Regimental orders.

Captain Lascelles being called before the Board, the following Questions are put to him.

Q.

To your knowledge of any reasonable cause why Corporal Lefroy should not be tried by a General Court Martial on the 13th inst.

A.

About 10 o'Clock or a little after the duty Sergeant of my Company (Sergeant

Sejeant Jemmy came to me when I
was at Major Mundeville's, and told
me that 200 or 300 Men had made a
Riot in the Bazar and Lieut. Colonel
Saxon had sent him for me - I went to
Lieut. Colonel Saxon whom I found at
Home with Colonel Smith, on the
former informing me of the disturbance
I requested leave to Sale on my own
Company in the Barracks for the
purpose of enquiring if they had any
Complaints - He permitted me to do -
I told the Company what they had Fallen
in that I was sorry to think they had
behaved so irregularly, that if they
had any Complaints to make, I was ready
to hear them, and should represent them
to the Commanding Officer, not a Man
replied - I told them from the Silence
I judged they had no Complaints - As
Sejeant Jemmy had before informed me
that there were two Men more disaffected
than the rest - Foster and John Ingo
I had represented it to Lieut. Col. Saxon
who desired me to confine them which
I did to the Main Guard, As the Men
attached my Company who had Fallen
regularly in, I observed all the other
Men of the Corps crowding Round to see
what passed, after this I dismissed the

(Company

Night the Guns would have been carried to Madras, and that the 12th would have seized the Gates of that Fort.

Peter Smith, ~~Lieut. Quartermaster~~ ~~Lieut. in the 6th Regt.~~ 6th ditto

that the Signals agreed to be hoisted for the 74th Marching was to have been a Union Reversed, a White Pennant only was hoisted, this I think he heard from Miller in the Artillery in the Packanee.

The Board adjourns till to morrow at Ten o'Clock.

General Ross's Gardens Choultry Plain
Thursday the 1st of February 1798.

President & Members all present.

Major Wynch takes his Seat by order of Government in room of Lieut. Colonel Robertson, who has been relieved on account of his intended Departure for Europe, vide Appendix G.

Lieut. Fireworker Brown being called before the Board, the following Questions are proposed.

2.

Do you know either the Persons or Names of any of the Men, who were Ringleaders, or appeared to You particularly active in the Mutiny on the Right of the 6th or Morning of the 7th ultimo?

A.

I cannot instances any particular Person, when the first party of the 2d Battalion joined, I observed a Man particularly active, Exam-=inging in the Encreased of them, He was a pace or so in front.

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A.

Do you know of any disturbance or Riotously Conduct among the Men of the Artillery since the 16th ultimo at Naas

I belong to Captain Campbells Company in the 1st Batt.n I was witness a few Nights ago to the only abuse I have known in the Barracks of the corps, -

Being Officer of the Day I attended in the Barracks at 8 o'clock Roll calling, after I had received the Report from Corporal Lafra, Orderly Corporal of Captain Campbells Co.s I went to collect the Reports of other Companies from the Serjeant of the Day, I heard a Noise behind me in the Men gathering together, in an irregular manner, - I went back among them, Corporal Lafra had been Struck and knocked down, I shod by the Corporal to prevent any further abuse, I spoke to the Men desiring any Man of the Company that had a Regard for its reputation to point out the person who had Struck the Corporal, on finding I could learn nothing from them I went in front of the Barracks, & called out some of the Men that I knew to be the most orderly in the Company & desired them to endeavour to

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having called on Lieut. Smith giving the Word of Command to Halt & Search Party that left the Dr. Artillery Barracks, to join the Field Pieces. The Sergeant supposed Search was considered as a Reproach on the Gentlemen who had promised so strongly on the Night of the 15th to stay by him or Shine.

Q.

Do you know any thing of a Combination, or rather of an inlarged Combination between the Artillery & any of his Majesty's Regiments?

A.

Between two & three o'Clock on the Morning of the 16th a Man of the 2d Batt. of the Name of Peter Smith, Bricklayer, from whom I got much Information, both me and Col. Smith & Me had Reason to think had come into the Barrack Yard, at the Commencement of the Disturbance had given out that the 74th and 82d had promised to join them, I reported the Circumstances to Colonel Smith who directed me to send the Man to General Pitts, which I did, the next Morning about 8 o'Clock after the 2d Batt. had joined the 5th, when I was at the Barracks, he sent Word to me that original hand written Lines for the 12th and 74th, I sent off to General Pitts afterwards I enquired if the Man had reported the Circumstance of what the Party of the 5th Batt. had given out about the 12th & 74th.

Mr. the Coroner said he has, That he has suspicions of something extraordinary going on here, from a Man of the 7th. of the Name of Ronald Macdonald, who was very particular in observing the Rebs. & whom he has remarked going several times between the Barracks & the Hospitals.

I told the Coroner of the Affair of three Guns going to be fired from the Mount, this was before they had been above Ten Minutes.

Lieut. Drew then acquainted the Coroner with what he & Lieut. Bird had seen & heard, & that he understood from Mr. Thom the 7th. had just come in & that Gen. Lee had given them Leave to go after the Countermarch Orders of the Rebs. had been read. Mr. Drew was asked about dancing the Cow Heels but was not certain whether the 7th. was one or not, they heard a Report of Guns being at the River Pendennis. Banks of the 2d. Battalion was another in the 7th, and that the Letter was on the Night of the 6th in the Evening Barracks with Lieut. Drew. Alex. Smith Bradys also the same days afterwards that he was told by the Serjeant of the

as the Men were falling in at 8 o
Clock Roll Call, on the 15th Inst.
instant, Serjeant Gordon desired the
Guards not to speak them on the
subject, as the Men were just falling
in, that he would enquire into the
and would satisfy Him in the
Morning if that was not sufficient
Gunner Steventon came to him next
Morning and desired he would repeat
what he had said the Night before,
that he should send for Matrosses
Clarke and Banks of Captain
Tanner's Company, to hear him, the
two Matrosses came to the Serjeants
Birth and on the latter denying
the Expression, they said it was
very well, Matross Clarke then said
to Serjeant Gordon that he had been
too active in his Duty, that he had
been the introduction of a Washerman
and Barber into the Company, & that
he must promise not to be so
particular in future, or it would be
the worse for him, Serjeant Gordon
who made the acquainted, with
the above circumstance, added that
he was obliged to comply, & to pro-
mise that he would have noth-
ing further to do with the Washerman or
Barber. He further said the Good Men

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were so intimidated, that they dared not come forward, this Communication was made to me about 5 or 6 days ago, and I mentioned the Circumstance to Colonel Smith, who desired me to send for Sergeant Gostelow with a view of obtaining proof. the Sergeant told me he did not think any proof could be brought forward the Men were so intimidated.

I think it proper to inform the Board that Sergeant Gostelow is a good Man and distinguished himself very particularly on the 2nd as a party was coming through the Gates of the 2nd Battalion Bar... to join the Trebiniers, he met Lt. Halbert across the Gateway he ... with them, the leading Man endeavoured to wrench it from him, the ... made a Thrust at another the ... bert went through his Hat ... the Bayonet off the Firelock of the Man in his Rear.

This was reported to me by the Sergeant Major Several others, who have every reason to believe it true.

I imagine the reason of the accusation being brought against Sergeant Gostelow, originated in several Troops ...

Brown, every endeavor has been used to discover the Offenders, and two Men are now in Confinement on Suspicion.

Q.

Do you know, or have you any reason to believe, there was a Combination or intended Combination between the Artillery & any of his Majesty's Regiments.?

A.

I do not know, nor have I the least reason to suppose there ever was any.

The Board having called upon Mr. Boswell, Surgeon of Artillery, the following Question is proposed.

Q.

Can you inform the Board of any Men that you observed on the Night of the 15th or Morning of the 16th, that appeared to you Ringleaders, or particularly active in the Mutiny.

A.

I saw a Man come up in an exulting Manner at the Head of the first party of the 2nd Battalion that joined the Mutineers, whom his swaggering manner, I conceived to be a Ringleader, — After the Cantonment Order of the 16th had been read to the Men, I observed the same Man very active, enquiring respecting the Order, & making many foolish Remarks, this led me to enquire his Name, which I was informed was Banks, & that he belonged to the 2d Battn, I mentioned to some Officers, one of whom I think was Lieut. Stone, the Situation I had to the best of my belief before seen him in.

The Board having called upon Lieut Stone Qua Master to the 2d Battn of Artillery - the following Questions are proposed.

1431

Q.

Have you seen from the Bodies of any Men that you observed in the Night of the 9th or Morning of the 10th either the Last appended to your Knowledge or particularly active during the Mutiny?

A.

When in front of the 1st Batt.n Barracks, I remarked a Man who appeared to me particularly forward I am unacquainted with his person but do not know his Name, he belongs to the 1st Battalion, Artificer Ironworker Brown knows him

I observed a Man of the 2nd Batt.n whose Name is Bandicoot was the leading File of the 1st Platoon of the 2nd Battalion who joined the Mutineers – I afterwards saw this Man in the Files of the party that went to request the release of Bandicoot, and I heard him give the Word of Command Front Rank Shot Party which was repeated by several others, He also spoke to Bandicoot but I could not hear what he said –

Q.

Do you know of any discontents existing among the Men at the Barrack since the period of the Mutiny being settled on the 15th Instant.

A.

The only Circumstance come to my knowledge is that of Sergeant Gosselow, Pay Sergeant of Lt Colonel Clarke's Company having been told by Gunner Steventon of the Same Company of having said that the Englishmen would not stand to their words as the Dutchmen would.

Captain Campbell having been called before the Board. The following Questions are proposed.

Q.

Do you know what Grievances the 1st Battalion 78th Regt. complained of on the Night of the 15th?

A.

Yes.

Q.

Previous to the Night of the 15th have you received any Complaints from the Men of your Company, relative to the said Grievances?

A.

Only Relative to the Article of Pay which they wished earlier in the Month, On the 13th instant the Pay Sergeant of my Company reported to me, that the Men were in distress for want of their pay, that he had promised them to inform me of it & that they were then waiting in hopes of Assistance. I went immediately to Colonel Baxon, who had at that time received a similar Report from other Officers, the Men were by his directions advanced half a Guinea each.

Q.

Do you know or have you heard the Names of any Men who were Ringleaders, or particularly active in the late Meeting?

A.

I have heard the Names of Clarke & Stumbles mentioned as Ringleaders, but I did not remark them myself.

Q.

Have any Circumstances come to your knowledge either before, during, or since the Meeting at the Mount, that can in any shape the Cause of that occurrence?

A.

I cannot Conjecture any Cause for the late Conduct of the Men, since I have been in the Battalion about 12 Months, I have not known of

their

there having any Grounds of Complaint whatever, Duty has been regularly carried on, There were sometime ago frequent irregularities in Men absenting themselves from the Cantonment, but they were in general severely punished - I have never known of the Men of the Company making any Complaints they might have had in an irregular manner concerning the Stoppages ordered for the Jackets & Hats might hear had upon the Men. I told the Jemadar Sergeant that if he thought so, would make it easy to them. I told him that the Pay allowed was fully sufficient, & that he was not be in the least embarrassed.

Q.

Do you know if any of the Men of the 2nd Battalion were engaged in the Mutiny before they broke publicly out on the Morning of the 16th?

A.

No, I do not.

Q.

Has any disorderly Conduct of any Men of the 1st Battalion since the 10th instant, come to your knowledge?

A.

Some days ago Subadar Lalla of the Company was knocked down in the Barrack at 8 o'Clock but calling in the execution of his duty, & in the presence of the Officer of the day &c.

B.

A

Q. Was Private Lead of the 38th.

A.

Q.

A.

Q. Did you hear that the Men of the 38th Battalion gave in to Col. [illegible] or other Officer a Paper of Grievances at the Rideau Barracks?

A. I heard the Men mention to General Gale on the Night of the 15th. that they wished the Drums cover'd in the Barracks, that no Stoppages should be made for Glass Belts & Jackets, & that Biscuits in the Bazar should be sold at the same Rate as at Kingston.

Q. Do you know that during the Meeting the Men elected any particular Grievances they wished to have redressed?

A.

Q. Do you think the Men will be pleased at the Intention of Government [illegible]

A.

Q.

A. They have not made any to me, nor have I heard of their ever having made them to any other Officer.

Q. Do you know or have you ever heard any of the Men of the 21st Batt. ever made any Representations to any Officer relative to the said Articles of Grievance previous to the Night of the 15th instant?

A.

Q. Do you know or have you ever heard the reason why the Men who were confined on suspicion, release in the Morning?

A. I have certainly a Suspicion, but at the whole proceeding, that Gale did not march my Men on the Night of the 15th having soon left the Room

and the Night being very dark. in the Morning of the 16th. I was sent for to General Gels, when there saw a Man of the Name of Clarke a Mason in the 2nd Battalion, speaking to the General regarding their Grievances, I therefore considered him as a leading Man, which I was the more induced to do from General Gels after he had made the Regimental Order of the 16th. when reading it, calling the attention of Clarke who he remarked was an intelligent Man.

Q.

Have you any Letter or your Information signed by the Men of the Company you Command, vindicating the Character of your Regiment from an Attack made upon it in an Anonymous Letter by Lieut. Colonel Lyon?

A.

I have.

Captain Howley gave the original Letter, & I forwarded a Copy to the Board.

Q.

Do you know if any of the Men of the 2nd Battn. were engaged in the Meeting before they broke out Public in the Morning of the 16th?

No. I believe not, I did not know there were any. On my first entering when I preached the Cantonment I was to know of the 2nd Battn. Men and I was informed they had not

Q.

Have any circumstances come to your knowledge, either before, during or since the Meeting at the Provost that explains in any shape the cause of that occurrence?

A.

I know of no circumstance to which that late Meeting can be so much attributed, as to that of proper support not having been given to the Commissioned & Non Commissioned Officers of the Battalion. The Men have not been in the habit of making any Representation thro' the regular Channels of their Officers, but direct to the Commanding Officer.

Q.

Who do you consider the present Commanding Officer of the First Battalion?

A.

Some Months since, a Cantonment Order was given out by General Hiels directing all Regimental Reports to be made to Lieut Colonel Sayer.

Q.

Do you mean, that Colonel Sayer is the person who receives applications direct from the Men?

A.

No, I mean General Hiels - the practice I alluded to, existed chiefly before the issuing of the above Cantonment Order.

Q.

Is any part of the Standing Orders of the 3d Battn Artillery, point out the mode in which the Men should prefer their complaints, if they have any? Have the Standing Orders of the Corps directed or was they known by the Officers in charge of Companies?

A.

The Standing Orders do point out most particularly the Regular Channel in which Complaints are to be made, they are frequently read by Officers in Charge of Companies.

Q.

You have informed the Court that the Men have been in the habit of making Representations direct to Major General Hiels; has this irregularity been ever noticed to Lieut. Colonel Saxon or Major General Hiels by Officers Commanding Companies?

A.

I do not know of any Notice having been lately taken by the Officers Commanding Companies of any thing of the sort to Major General Hiels, so many representations were formerly made to him by the Officers of the Corps, and with so little success, that I believe it has been of late the particular study of the Officers of the 5th Battalion to go on with the Duty as smoothly as possible.

Q.

Have you ever known a Soldier reprimanded by the Officers of his Company for disobedience of Regimental Orders, in complaining to the Commanding Officer of the Corps in the first instance?

A.

I cannot call a Circumstance the kind to my Recollection

Q.

Did Lieut. Colonel Saxon a short time since publish a Regimental Order relating to the Recollection of the Men, the proper Channel for preferring any imagined Grievances?

A.

He did I think on the 1st Instant publish an Order conveying his disapprobation of their irregular Conduct, Recommending them when any thing occurred, which they supposed a grievance to go through the regular Channels

Q.

Have any Circumstances come to your knowledge, either before, during or since the Meeting at the Brown Bear explain in any shape the cause of that Assurance?

A.

I know of no Circumstance to which that Feeling can be so much attributed, as to that of people supposed not having been given to a Commissioned & Non Commissioned Officers of the Battalion. The Men not been in the habit of making any Representation thro' the regular Channel of their Officers, but direct to the Commanding Officer.

Q.

Who do you consider the present Commanding Officer of the First Battalion?

A.

some Months since, a Command was given out by General Hale directed as Regimental Reports to be made to Lieut. Colonel Lyon.

Q.

Do you mean that Colonel Lyon is the person who receives applications direct from the Men

A.

No I mean General Hale the practice I alluded to, existed chiefly before the issuing of the above Command Order.

Q.

Do any part of the Standing Orders of the Battn Artillery, point out the Mode in which the Men should prefer Complaints, if they have any? Have the Standing Orders of the Corps directed to be read Monthly by the Officers in charge of Companies?

A.

The Standing Orders do point out most particularly the Regular Channel in which Complaints are to be made, they are frequently read by Officers in Charge of Companies.

Q.

You have informed the Board that there have been in the habit of making Representations direct to Major General Hicks; Has this irregularity been ever noticed to Lieut. Colonel Saxon or Major General Hicks by Officers commanding Companies?

A.

I do not know of any Notice having been publicly taken by the Officers Commanding Companies of any thing of the sort to Major General Hicks, as many representations were formerly made to them by the Officers of the Corps, and with no little success, that I believe it has been of late a particular study of the Officers of the 5th Battalion to go on with the Duty as smoothly as possible.

Q.

Have you ever known a Soldier punished by the Officers of his Company for Disobedience of Regimental Orders, in complaining to the Commanding Officer of the Corps in the first instance?

A.

I cannot call a Circumstance of the kind to my Recollection

Q.

Lieut. Colonel Saxon is about to resign publish a Regimental Order calling to the Recollection of the Men, the proper Channel for Representations - you are aware thereof?

A.

He did 2 Months or the 10 England published an Order on the subject of this description of Men misconduct, upon which Time he any thing occurred, I may mistaken, presume to go through the regular Channels

them drawn up in Articles of Agreement, & that perhaps it would be necessary to add something to it, & that there ought to be two Men of the Company to see it drawn up, - I replied to Him, that he had better go to the General himself - The Board having requested Capt. Lieut. Sir John Sinclair to mention the name of this Man, He informs them it is Clarke of the 72d Battalion, he hesitated in going there, & told Him he had better go on which he did, & I think the General afterwards mentioned that the Man had come to Him A Minute or two after this, I observed the Flag was hoisted on one of the Guns, I enquired the meaning & was told it was a Signal for the Men on the Top of the Mount to come down, I desired them to draw back the Flag Gun to the Line, as there were not sufficient European for the whole, the Lascars would draw the rest, the Men drew off the Flag Gun - before it had gone ten Yards, they manned the other Guns & drew the whole off with - three Cheers, I saw them after passing the Guns draw up in Front of them, they marched off I understood with the Grenadiers March after this, I went to their respective Barracks - It may perhaps be necessary to state, that the Men who were duly, paraded as regularly & were as clean dressed & did & on the Morning of the 15th as on any other day, tho' they paraded previous to the Meeting being settled - the Guards did not march off till the Cantonment Orders had been issued, I saw the Party consisting of about 15 file return from the Mount, they were commanded by Ensign Stubbs.

The Board having requested Captain Lieut. Sir John Sinclair to inform them who was Officer of the

Day in the first Battalion on the 15th

He informs them Lieut. Crosdile was not aboard when taken & put him in Arrest by desire of Lieut. the next Officer for that Duty Lieut Prince had been on leave at Madras, the next was on Duty & the next had got leave to go to General Harris's Camp & was ordered to relieve Lieut. Crosdile remains in the Cantonment this past 8 o'Clock this day it all being apparently quiet. I have hear of no irregularities since except a few days ago when Lieut. Foucroker Brown was Officer of the day it reported to me next Day that the Corporal of Captain Campbells Company, had been struck by some of the Men after the Roles had been called at Eight o'Clock the preceding Night, that he, Lieut. Brown had enquired into it, that many of Campbells Company requested him to apprise Commanding Officer to have the Corporal, as that they had always been an Orderly Company since he came among them, & that he wished to have it on their Lives.

The Board Adjourn'd to morrow at 9 o'Clock.

General Roy's Gardens Choultry Madras the 31st January 1798.

The Board having met agreeably to Adjournment President & Members all present.

Captain Hardy being sworn & [illegible]

The Following Questions are [illegible]

Men of Captain Rowley's Company to shew an example, one of the Men said, "There is not half of Captain Rowley's Company here Sir." I repeated again to them the Example, & the rest soon follow'd. I went down after this to General Viele, & some time after returned with him to the Parade, where he addressed the Men, telling them he could not speak to them while they had Arms in their Hands, being no longer their Commanding Officer, they having assumed the Authority, or words to that effect. There was a good deal of Conversation passed between the General & them respecting their Complaints, when speaking about the Bazar prices, the General related to them a Report he had received from one of their Comrades a Mess Caterer, after he had done so the Man whose Name is Taylor - said from the Ranks said "It is perfectly right." One of the Men in the Ranks said to the General when speaking about their Hats and Jackets, "We don't like "White Hats, they make us look like Barbers."

"The General left them after many ineffectual efforts to bring them to their Duty, & went to his own Quarters, I went away at the same time, & knew nothing further that night till the next Morning.

"On my hearing a Gun fired from the Top of the Mount, I went down towards the Generals, & on my passing the Barracks of the 1st Batt.n, I observed the Artillery Men falling in with Arms, & a part of the 2nd Batt.n were formed on their left, I met the General coming towards the Men, he expressed himself to me apprehensive there were other Troops in league with them. He walked on & I accompanied him, when he came within a short distance of the Men they formed a Circle - After the Oath

was

was Some. I heard very distinctly the Words "No Officers" The General still walked on, & just as he came to them I think they opened one or two Files & admitted him & Accompanied him, He first asked them what they wanted I think the first thing they asked was the Arrack to be served in the Barracks, this the General granted, the next was to have no White Jackets and Straw Hats which he granted also; they then spoke about the Bazar being the same as at Madras, this was granted; they also asked that the [illegible] and second Payments should be made, & to receive the Pay on the first of every Month, To the former he consented To the latter he said it did not depend on him, that as soon as the Pay was received at the Mount, it was always his Most Earnest wish that Government could not always advance it exactly the first of the Month, - After this they knew it was not in his power to grant it to them always on the first of the Month, To which, to the best of my Recollection, answer was not in the Generals power on this the Men then withdrew & the General went away, and wrote the next Order of the 16th which he directed to be read to the Men, I returned & read it to them, the Men bore it apparently satisfied, one or two of them came up & wished to know if it was signed by the General then to satisfy them on that head I took out the Order, which I did & shewed it to those men & some others who then appeared perfectly satisfied, & I then remarked to me that the General need not be alarmed at their still remaining under the Guns as that they would be ready for Duty - & that they were waiting to know the Orders which had been given

has since come to the knowledge of any Man that were Ring-
leaders or active in the Fight of the 15th or the Morning of the
16th instant.

21st Jany

I have already informed the Board of Clarke &
Grumbles, Foster was with Clarke when he spoke to Serjeant
Geale, about Lieut. Goodlet & I have heard that Banks of the
2nd Battalion, was the person who commanded the party who came
with them."

The Board having called upon Col. Aston Com-
manding His Majesty's 9th Regiment put the following Question

Question

"Can you give the Board any information
regarding the Source of Rumours of a Combination, or rather
an intended Combination between the Artillery at the Barrack &
His Majesty's 12th Regiment?

Answer

From the Sergeant I heard such Rumours &
have been minuting in my endeavours to trace them to their
Source, but I have not been able to discover any Grounds for
the imputation. On the Forenoon of the 16th instant, I heard a
Rumour, that it had been proposed to the 12th by the Artille
for the former to assist the latter ... The proceedings
ensuing, and that they would then have every thing their own
way, In consequence of this report I appointed a Committee of
Officers to enquire into it & other Rumours that were passing about
I offered at the same time a Reward of five Hundred Pounds each
and my interceding with the Commander in Chief for their
Discharge to any two Individuals that would come forward to es-
tablish any Correspondence or Messages having ever passed between
any of the Men of the 12th and Individuals of any other Corps, or

(to

to prove a Man of any other Party having ever been ill
treated in the 12th, but the Resolves of the Committee
who have been sitting ever since, added to the large Rewards
offered, have not yet discovered the most remote Cause for
the Rumours, and I believe they are wholly groundless

Captain Lieut. Sir John Sinclair [illegible]
[illegible] Assistant of the 7th Batt. of Artillery, being called before the Bar
informed them as follows

Captain Lieutenant Sir John Sinclair. — "I was at General
Harris's Ball when accounts of the disturbances at the Room
were received, & I believe I was one of the first Officers who
reached the Room, I went direct to the 1st Battalion's Class
Parties, & seeing the Men in a disorderly state behind the Seats
they had been sitting on, I desired them to fall in by Companies
which they did, I reprimanded them for the Irregularity
they had shewed, and gave the Word for them to March
they did, I said them to the right, and gave them the [illegible]
It was so dark that I could not see from Right to Left,
my Orders were obeyed, but the Men, nearest, I observed
to them, some time afterwards one of the Men came [illegible]
said he understood the 7th were coming against us, but
they need be under no Apprehension as that were not so
believed, when I left the Gardens, General Harris was
[illegible] with their Conduct, the Officers [illegible]
Men expressed their Wish to see General Gibbs [illegible]
would not like to see them in that Situation, that they [illegible]
[illegible] Rule the Case after he arrived, I called out to the

Indicative of a Continuance of Irregularity and Dissatisfaction among them.

Lieut Colonel Fraser says "I do not know of any dissatisfaction remaining among the Men, but an instance of Irregularity happened a few Nights ago, The Orderly Corporal of Captain Campbells Company, after having called the Roll at 8. o'Clock P.M. in presence of Lieutenant Brewerton Officer of the Day, was knocked down by some Men after his Light had been put out, and was severely Cut on the Head. - The Corporal is a Foreigner, and suspects some of his own Countrymen did it, but he cannot fix on any particular person, I have used every endeavour in vain to discover it — The Circumstance was reported to Major General Gisle next Morning I rather conceive this Irregularity had no Connection with the Mutiny, as I understand the Corporal (who is strict in carrying on Duty) is disliked by the Men, and was so when in the Dukes Service.

"It is proper however that I should acquaint the Board, that previous to this irregularity the Sergeant Major brought two Letters to my House, one from the Ironcon mistress and another from the Gunners and Matrosses of the Battalion, both of which I now lay before the Board (see Appendix) as I was not at Home he left them on the Table when I was Home he opened them, I began a Letter to General Gisle which I meant to send with the Letters directed to, while writing Sergeant Major returned and informed me, that since he had delivered those Letters there had been Murmurs, and some of the Men of the Battalion were dissatisfied at their being sent on, I desired him to enquire more particularly, What I would be the Reasons they sent the next Morning, If some of the Men remained unwilling I would of course not send him

ss, - He came to me next morning, and told me so
the Men were still unwilling to have any sent o
told him it was very well. I instantly told the Letters
General Field, to whom I represented all the Circumst
-ces of the Transaction - He advised me by no means
receive the Letters.

" One or two Mornings afterwards when
-ceiving the Report from the Sergeant Major. I spoke to H
again on the subject of the Letters, he then told me, Ma
Clarke, a Protestant in the 2d Regt spoke to them & mention
the impropriety of sending in Letters from one Battalion
said a Letter from both Battalions was preparing, or
was writing it, or Words to that effect - and I think
Sergeant Major observed, that Clarke must have been
among the Men of the 5th - Clarke is a Man of
ability, has been a Lawyers Clerk, & was the
Spokesman for the party who requested Lieut
Invest

" The Board requested to know
Colonel Doyle knew the Man that Commanded
on the Top of the Mount.

" I did not know at the time
since heard that it was Sumner Rumble of H
I think I heard this from Lieut Stone who
told me that this Man was the first who
to the 2d Battalions Barracks on H. Guard

" The Board having requested
to inform them, if he either remarked or H

At the moment I reached him, I heard him say
"I hope then you are satisfied" – He then turned round to me
and said he had acceded to the demands of the Men, and
that every thing must now to be buried in Oblivion – He
then, to the best of my recollection, gave the Word of Command
to Ground their Arms – Shoulder their Firelocks – To the
Right about Face – Break – which was obeyed; Colonel
Smith, was present at the time – General Gibbs went away
with the intention he said of forwarding the Cantonment Order
of the 10th The Men on his going away, straggled in small
parties with their Arms about the Guns in front of the
Barracks – I went to General Gibbs's Quarters at the same
time, and saw him write the Order and give it to Captain
Lieut. Sir John Sinclair to read to the Men – After Capt.
Lieut. Sir John Sinclair had been sent to read the Order
General Gibbs walked up to my House – While there a few
of them with their Arms came to the Gateway – Called –
then more came in with their Arms advanced, and to the best
my recollection the General Gibbs they had one Request more to
make, – the General said with a good deal of surprise, "I hope
you are satisfied with what has been done, or words to it
effect – They said they were perfectly satisfied, that they
had only one request, which was that Lieut. Crosdale was
be taken out of Arrest – I think they said they wished
every thing in the Cantonment should be accommodated &
forgot – General Gibbs said he would take upon himself to do
it, and, to the best of my recollection, Lieut. Charlton, who
present, offered to go to Lieut. Crosdale with the parti
and give him his Sword, which he did – Captain Lieut
Sir John Sinclair Surdevants, read the Order as directed

&c

and Eastwards near the Iron drag the Guns back to the line, fall in regularly with their Arms under the Command of one of themselves, and march back to their respective Barracks"

Lieut Col.
The Board request that Captain Saxon will inform them who was the Regimental Officer of the Day on the 15th in the 1st Battalion, and what Conduct he observed.

Lieut Colonel Saxon acquaints the Board, that It is customary for the Adjutant of the Battalion to insert in the orderly Book the Name of the Regimental Officer of the Day, from the Roster he keeps for that purpose and it happened that he did not know who was on the Duty of the Day on the 15th instant, nor did he receive any information on this subject till a Letter was received from this Board desiring the Attendance of Officer of the day, on the 15th, in the 1st Battalion - Inquiring he was informed by Lieut Crosdile, that the Officer of the day till he went first in Arrest at Block - and here it is necessary I should say to the Board, that Lieut Crosdile was first put in Arrest by Captain Lieut Sir John Sinclair, in consequence of Orders from me, at the desire of Major Lumley - but I did not know at the time that Crosdile was on duty, and it happened the Guard did not first in Officer on Duty in the room

The Board requested that Lieut Crosdile would inform them of any Circumstances which may have happened at the Barrack since the 10th instant as are apparently connected with the Mutiny

Deserve to stop the Report being made to the Commander in Chief, They appeared very quiet at this time and returned into their Barracks, which gave me hopes that what I am said had a salutary effect. At this time I saw Sergeant Allen (a Man of excellent Character) who was Sergeant of the Main Guard standing at a little distance. I went up to him and said you see the Situation of the Men and the Manner in which they have behaved. I added that I had no doubt but Troops would be immediately sent to quell them by force, and that as he might discover the Men who were not concerned, I desired him to speak to them to collect themselves to assist in the event of a Force arriving but to do it as secretly as possible, to prevent any Injury happening to the good Men, previous to a Force coming sufficient for their protection - Exclusive that I might depend on his doing so, I then went and reported to General Gale the Circumstances of my Meeting Allen in the Men, their apparent Contrition, and requested he would wait dispatching any Letter to the Commander in Chief half an Hour, to see what effect the Steps he would produce."

"He replied it was very well, that it would be nearly that time before the Letter was ready. I left him & went to my own Quarters, where I had not been above ten Minutes before I heard a Drum & Cheering, and my Orderly came running in to inform me that the 2nd Battalion had joined - At this same time saw the Men falling in under Arms, and went with haste to General Gale's Quarters to inform him of the Circumstance."

(M.6

While there I saw a party of Brn. detach from the main Body towards the Town in the line, take Prisoner Colonel Gill's Quarter M. & 6 Brn. from the Ranks of that Party, calling out "Down with that Flag", "Down with that Flag", and at the same time struck Colonel Gill's Flag, which was fixed in front of his Quarters, and, I believe, carried the rest of the Banners; the Party took me from them in the Park and returned with them to the Brn. Camp.

"I saw another Party detached at the same time to the left of the Brown, where I remained during the Fight; Shells flew over my Head. I observed them at the same time to Inspect Whole Regiment and Officers Huts in the Redoubt and Entrenchments Round - I saw at the same time a Strong Party marched out of which, I was afterwards informed, took Possession of Magazine."

"After a short period had elapsed Gill said he would go out and speak to them. I agreed to accompany him, but he requested me to wait until he should go by himself.

"I went to speak to you, who I saw at a little distance, but after a few minutes, before I proceeded a Sergeant of Colonel Gill's attended him immediately. I followed him to the Front of a Line of Brn. & was told to sit on Ground.

me into them together. It is thought from its being night, it would be impossible, as many of the good men had been alarmed by threats, and others had dispersed and concealed themselves to prevent their being sacrificed by the rest.

Hearing at this time that General Wells had arrived, I waited about a Quarter of an Hour or 20 Minutes afterwards on the Parade, in expectation of his coming up to the Front of the Barracks, but finding he did not come, I went down to his Quarters. On my arrival there, I found Colonel Smith, who told me, as I suppose, relating every Circumstance which had occurred to General Wells. I took this Opportunity of enquiring of some Officers who were there, and who had been in the Cantonment from the Commencement of the Affair, relating to what had passed; and was then informed for the first time, of the Lights to which the Men of the first Battalion had gone. Soon after General Wells went in front of the first Battalions Barracks, and I, as well as many other Officers, attended him. He ordered the Men to pile in, which they did in front of the Guns they had stacked, under Arms. At this period, to the best of my Judgment, there were not above 400 Men in Line.

General Wells expostulated with them on their shameful Conduct, and frequently exhorted them to return the Guns to the Line and Retire to their Barracks, telling them he could grant no Redress while they had Arms in their hands that they had taken the Powder out of his hand, and told them if they attended to his exhortation he had no doubt but he could take good Care to state their Grievances with Consideration next Morning, but failing all this to be of no effect, he retired to his Quarters

General

the Board adjourned till to-morrow ten o'Clock

Major General Ross's Garden Choultry Plain, Tuesday the 10th January 1792.

The Board having met pursuant to Adjournment, President & Members all present

Lieut. Col. Dixon being called before the Board resumes his Narrative.

Every thing on the day of the 15th was perfectly quiet, I left the Cantonments about a Quarter past 8 that Night, and came down to General Harris's Ball at his Gardens on Choultry Plain; I believe it was between the Hours of 11 and 12 at Night that Lieut. Fields came up to me in the Ball Room and told me he had just received Information from Lieut. Cookesley that the two Battalions at the Mount had mutinied and taken possession of the Guns at the Park, and desired me to go immediately to the Mount and desire every Officer of Artillery I could find to do the same, which I accordingly did — On my Arrival at the Mount I went direct to the Front of the 1st Battalion's Barracks, where I found Colonel Smith and several Officers walking backwards and forwards, and saw several Guns drawn up in Front of the Barracks, I enquired of Colonel Smith what was the Matter — He told me, that a party of the Men had mutinied, that He had done every thing in his power to pacify them, had enquired into the Nature of their Complaints, that they had given him a paper specifying them and that he had promised they should be Redressed

Colonel